

Elite primary schools to select CTC pupils



Naismith: "the school will be very popular"

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A LOCAL authority prep school, selecting pupils at the age of eight, is to be set up in London to serve a city technology college.

Councillors in Conservative-controlled Wandsworth, southwest London, are also bidding for £600,000 of government money to make three of the borough's primary schools elite feeder schools for Battersea Technology College which opens in September.

The prep school, which has yet to be put to a council committee, would be located within the college. The feeder schools would hire language

teachers, buy computers and receive additional money for extra-curricular activities.

Wandsworth has led the way in Conservative local government reforms and the latest plans are certain to cause a new dispute over the extension of selection to the primary sector.

Derek Fatchett, the Labour party's spokesman on schools, said that the proposals confirmed the party's fears for a divided education system. "We are turning the clock back with such damaging proposals. They undermine the education system and will reduce standards overall," he said.

While other countries are looking for high standards for more and

more youngsters, we seem to be resigned to the view that we can only achieve high standards for a few children."

John Milton, Sir James Barrie and Chesterton primaries, will be considered for upgrading if the authority is among those to benefit from the environment department's £750 million City Challenge allocation in July. The schools would have longer school days and years, on the pattern established in the technology colleges.

Another £800,000 out of a total bid of £3 million would go on nursery and pre-school playgroups "with an educational culture" for children under three. Wandsworth already

has one of the 13 city technology colleges in operation, and has put £2 million into the Battersea college as the first under local authority control, selecting those with an aptitude for technology at 11.

Edward Lister, who chairs the education committee, said: "The whole of Wandsworth's policy is geared around choice. We do not want the neighbourhood comprehensive system, and once you start breaking that up at secondary level, it is only a matter of time before you look at the primary level."

Mr Lister said that the prep school might open in 1994, but selection procedures had not yet been determined. The primary schools would

be upgraded next year because the authority was anxious to improve the prospects of children from an area of educational underachievement.

Donald Naismith, Wandsworth's chief education officer, said he thought that the prep school would be very popular. "We have got to get away from the rigid distinction between primary, secondary and further education."

"We are unapologetic for introducing the idea of a junior technical college because we think that young child do have an aptitude and liking for that bias in education."

Jobs warning, page 2

TODAY IN THE TIMES

LIVINGSTONE PRESUMES



Red Ken, approaching from the left, shares his leadership vision with Valerie Grove. Life & Times, page 1

JUDICIARY PROTESTS



Are we soon to lose the "paraphernalia of the horsehair wigs" from our courts? David Pannick ponders the possibility. Page 10

BOTTOMLEY PRESCRIBES



The health secretary tells Victoria McKee why she is naturally fit for office. Life & Times, page 6

Smith signals end of union block voting

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE death knell was sounded last night for the trade union block vote in Labour leadership elections when John Smith, front-runner to replace Neil Kinnock, joined his main rival, Bryan Gould, in calling for a new electoral system.

At present the unions have 40 per cent of the voting strength with MPs and their constituencies having 30 per cent each.

Mr Smith's criticism of the system reflects growing dissatisfaction within the party at the extent of union influence on the leadership election. Mr Smith, with guaranteed backing from several of the main unions, has already been victim of allegations of "a stitch up", and Ann Clwyd, a contender for the deputy leadership, has said that unions should not take part in the election until they have

bailed their members.

Mr Smith, taking a firmer

line than in his opening bid for the leadership, also appealed to unions to conduct membership ballots before voting.

In a speech to the Scottish TUC general council dinner in Perth, he said the choice of leader should be a genuinely democratic decision and all party members should be given the opportunity to vote individually.

"In a democratic party like ours, participation by individual members is its lifeblood. And that is why I invite all our affiliated organisations to conduct ballots of their members before they make their decisions," he said. "I do not believe that we will wish to maintain the present electoral college for the election of the leadership. My view is that a college comprised of the party and the elected MPs would be the most legitimate and representative method of democratic choice."

The abolition of union votes was seen last night as a precursor for diminishing union influence in the party.

Bill Speirs, the Scottish TUC deputy general secretary, said: "My own view is that going down this road will massively reduce the influence of the trade unions within the Labour party. Whether this is a good thing or bad is for others to judge. There could be a superficial attraction in such a development, he said, but trade unions were dramatically accountable organisations. I don't think we should be in any way ashamed of their influence in the party they founded."

Addressing the Dagenham Labour party last night, Mr Gould said that his decision to stand as leader had already benefited the party by making it clear that "this is the last time that a leadership election will take place on the current basis — of block votes substituting for the participation of individual trade unionists and party members". If

he had not stood and contested the leadership the secession would be seen "to have settled arguments, not begun the debate, and that would have provoked a dangerous backlash inside the party".

In Perth, Mr Smith outlined his main beliefs and policies, emphasising the need for active participation in the European Community, a subject over which he and Mr Gould have differed. In preparing for the next general election, Labour had to accept that it would be fighting in very different circumstances. "We must start on the task of preparing policies for the closing years of this century and the first decade of the next. We must continue to modernise and rebuild our party so it becomes the most effective fighting force for our policies we have ever had."

He supported a bill of rights creating "positive freedoms" of access to education, health care, housing and employment. He also backed Labour's commitment to a Scottish parliament and said the party would be pressing for a multi-choice referendum as soon as Parliament resumed.

On proportional representation, Mr Smith was as coy as Mr Kinnock had been. It was right for the party to examine electoral reform fully and he supported the idea of extending the membership of the Plant committee to other political parties and organisations.

Mr Gould's speech focused on the need for consensus politics and greater sensitivity to grassroots opinion. He suggested that the Labour election campaign had concentrated too heavily on showpiece media events and failed to get its message across to the voters.

Diary, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Livingstone presumes, LRT section, page 1

Princess divorced

The Princess Royal was granted a "quickie" divorce in a four-minute hearing at Somerset House. Neither she nor Captain Mark Phillips, from whom she has been separated for two years, was present. The decree is expected to be made absolute in six weeks. Page 3

Heath award

Edward Heath has been made a Knight of the Garter, the most senior order of chivalry. The Queen has also appointed Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover and Viscount Ridley to the order. Page 3

Rates cut blow

Hopes for a cut in interest rates were dealt a blow by a surprise surge in German money supply figures, which all but extinguished the chances of any cut in German rates before the autumn. Page 15

Test defeat

South Africa's dream of marking their return to Test cricket with victory over West Indies in Bridgetown was shattered by a batting collapse that ended in a 52-run defeat. Page 34

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1X



A girl is helped from the rubble of a collapsed building in the shattered city of Guadalajara

Alerts failed to save shattered city

DAZED residents of the devastated city of Guadalajara were demanding to know last night why volatile gas was allowed to gather in the sewers and explode nine times, killing at least 200 and injuring about 800 others.

As workers searched thousands of tons of debris for dead and survivors over a huge section of Mexico's second city, the government was being asked why it had failed to act quickly enough on reports of a petrol-like smell in the area before Wednesday's

blasts. The cause of the explosions, which gouged deep trenches in the streets of La Reforma district, was still unclear yesterday, but some officials blamed a build-up of either an industrial cleaning solvent or petrol.

The smell of gas continued to be reported in some areas yesterday. Some streets were closed to traffic, the sale of petrol was restricted and some factories gave workers the day off. Nearly 12 hours after the blasts, people were being evacuated from one industrial area where officials said smoke and gas still escaped from sewers. Officials, saying they feared more explosions, had asked people to leave the area, but many had refused.

Residents had complained to authorities as early as Sunday of a strong smell of gas rising from the sewers in the old quarter of Analco, one of the districts most heavily damaged along with Tlaquepaque and Olimpica.

Witnesses said employees of the city's sanitation and

water department examined the sewer network several times, but took no special security measures. Residents were advised to leave their windows open after being assured there was no danger. Continued on page 14, col 8

Probe finds key to universe

Astronomers believe they have found the secret of the universe with a space satellite's discovery of evidence suggesting how stars and galaxies were formed after the big bang that is believed to have created the cosmos.

Huge ripples of matter have been detected near the edge of the universe by the Cosmic Background Explorer, a satellite launched by NASA in 1989. Announcing the results yesterday at a meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington, George Smoot of the University of California at Berkeley said: "What we have found is evidence for the birth of the universe."

The discovery excited astro-

physicists on both sides of the Atlantic. If the research was confirmed, it would be one of the most important discoveries in cosmology since the early 1960s, said Professor George Efstathiou of Oxford University. "It's a very important finding and it gives us a really good handle on what was going on at the birth of the universe," he said.

Alan Heavens of Edinburgh University said: "It's tremendously exciting." Michael Turner, a University of Chicago physicist, said: "The significance of this cannot be overstated. They have found the Holy Grail of cosmology... if it is indeed correct, this certainly would have to be considered for a Nobel Prize."

If confirmed, the American findings answer a long-standing puzzle: why does the universe consist of concentrations of matter in the form of stars and galaxies separated by large empty spaces? The Astronomer Royal, Professor Arnold Wolfendale of Durham University, struck a cautionary note. "It's either the discovery of the decade or pure codswallop," he said. "We really do need confirmation." Continued on page 14, col 3

Bosnia ceasefire signed

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LEADERS of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslim, Serb and Croat communities agreed yesterday to end seven weeks of civil war in which more than 200 people have died and restant talks on a permanent peace settlement.

But as they signed the ceasefire accord at Sarajevo airport, sniper fire broke out from the airport perimeter

and Yugoslav army guards returned the fire with a tank-mounted machinegun.

President Izetbegovic of Bosnia said: "While I was signing it I wondered whether it would be respected. But I will do my best that all respect."

Muslim scepticism, page 7
Diary, page 10

Exhausted vicars get taste of heaven on earth

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THREE months of the temptations of sun, sea and sand lies in wait for unmarried Church of England clergymen, who are being invited on an all-expenses-paid sabbatical visit to the Seychelles.

The scheme will be launched in London later this year, after an invitation from the Anglican province of the Indian Ocean. The Rev Kevin Eastell, director of professional ministry in London, said he hoped that the vicars would not spend their whole time studying, but would enjoy the sun, sand and local attractions.

To the suggestion that some might come back married, he said: "It has been known. That is up to them. But I cannot arrange that for them."

The clergy will be expected to teach at a theological college, but Mr Eastell hopes that they will not work too hard.

"It is salvation by perspiration in the Church of England at the moment, and it won't do," he said last night as he left with his wife for a holiday in France. "A big problem with the ministry these days is a resurgence of the work ethic. Clergy feel they ought to be seen to be doing things all the time."

He said that one of the requirements for taking a sabbatical was that the clergy should have a rest. "It also gives those selected a chance to discover something of the Anglican Communion elsewhere."

The Indian Ocean province is one of 28 self-governing churches in the Anglican Communion. Most of the 43 dioceses in England have sabbatical schemes, although it is more usual for clergy to go on retreat, visit theological colleges or the Holy Land. When Mr Eastell arrived in London four years ago, the diocese allowed its clergy one sabbatical every fifty years.

"It was either sabbatical or death," he said. "Now they get one every twenty years. I have recently introduced a scheme which, from 1997, will shorten it to every seven years."

About 15 London clergy a year qualify for sabbatical leave. The diocese has been asked to supply visiting clergy over six months, which would allow two a year to visit the Seychelles. The scheme could be extended to married couples in future.

The clergy will draw their stipends while they are away, and the £600 return flight will be paid for by the diocese. The church in the Seychelles will feed and house them in a flat attached to the theological college.

Mr Eastell said: "We have no applicants yet; we have only just started marketing it. But one or two bishops have shown an interest. And I keep getting dug in the ribs by archaeologists asking if they can go."

DO TIPSY ELEPHANTS SEE PINK PEOPLE?

Your guess is as good as ours. Because, when BBC's WORLD Magazine visited Orissa, India, we found the elephants were too inebriated to give us a clue.

And thereby hangs a tale. Because, while the Orissans were hard at work burying their home-made brew, the beasts were equally busy digging it up again. (A few drinks weren't the only thing that got knocked back that night.)

Where will you find yourself when you pick up the May issue of BBC's WORLD Magazine?

Though our article on Orissa appeared previously, we have a dizzying array of surprises for you this month. Including a medieval Florentine football match, the Calcio Storico, where the game — a curious blend of soccer, rugby and wrestling — doesn't have any set rules. The mountainous terrain of Nepal, where porters carry anything from rice bags to cement on their backs for a mere £3 a day. And a glimpse into the prehistoric past with the secrets revealed by the mummified man in an Alpine glacier.

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Parents of hanged teenager launch anti-bullying drive

By LOUISE HIDALGO

THE parents of a teenager believed to have hanged herself because she could no longer bear the taunts of fellow pupils launched a national campaign yesterday with *Ether Rantzen*, presenter of *That's Life*, to combat bullying in schools.

Katharine Bamber, 16, was found dead at the end of last month. She had been the target of verbal abuse by pupils at her school in Kidderminster, near Birmingham, on and off for two years. More than a million school-

children are estimated to suffer repeated bullying from classmates each year.

Katharine's mother, Susan Bamber, was in tears as she recalled how, on the day before she was found dead, her daughter returned early from school saying that the bullying had resumed and that she did not know if she could endure it. "She told us that if we reported it to the school, as we had done previously, she would only suffer more."

Mrs Bamber found her daughter hanging in the ga-

rage of their home in Kidderminster. "I could not bear another child suffering like our daughter did," she said.

One in seven children, 1.3 million pupils, are thought to be victims of continual bullying, physical and psychological, according to research by Childline, the charity helpline set up by Miss Rantzen. More than 2,000 calls were received in three months from children suffering bullying at school. No official statistics are available.

"We know from the children who ring Childline how desperately unhappy bullying can make young people and how impotent their families sometimes feel," Miss Rantzen said. "It is terribly important that this problem is not covered up."

"For too long bullying has been regarded as a natural part of growing up. Often the temptation for adults seems to be to blame the victim. And often the child bottles it up, as Katharine did. We want every child to be able to say if this is happening to them."

That's Life is to launch the campaign officially in its programme tomorrow, showing interviews with the Bamber and the parents of another child who had hospital treatment for injuries from bullying. The Bamber have set up a trust fund in memory of their daughter to promote awareness in schools and government agencies of the suffering bullying can cause, and to give head teachers information on how to combat it. The children's programme, *Blue Peter*, will join the campaign.

David Bamber, governor of a young offenders' institution in Redditch, near Birmingham, urged the government to help schools tackle the problem. "If 2,000 secondary teachers are the victims of classroom disruption every week, how many children are becoming the victims of these same people?" he said.

Information packs, including Childline's research and an advice document for governors, teachers and parents, are to be sent to the UK's 34,000 state and private schools next week, funded by British Telecom and the Calcutt Foundation. The Scottish education department has issued booklets on bullying to Scottish schools in the last six weeks.

An inquest into Katharine's death will resume on May 1.

Princess Royal is granted divorce

By BILL FROST

THE Princess Royal was yesterday granted a divorce from Captain Mark Phillips after a brief court hearing in London which neither attended. The petition to end the 18-year marriage was the first on a list of 30 before a senior district judge in court three at Somerset House.

A decree nisi, unopposed by Captain Phillips, was given, paving the way for the divorce decree to be made absolute, probably within six weeks. Living apart for two years or more, as they had, was considered proof that the marriage had broken down irretrievably.

As the petition was being granted, the princess arrived in Hampshire for a series of official engagements. She laughed and joked with children after opening a new lemur house at Marwell Zoo, near Winchester.

Major Peter Phillips, Captain Phillips's father, told reporters that he was under "strict orders" to say nothing about the divorce. Last week, Major Phillips had said that he hoped that the pair could stay well-disposed towards each other. "I am very, very sorry it all turned out like this," he had said. "I'm still on good terms with the princess, but I am not sure if she and Mark are still friendly."

The four-minute hearing came 11 days after Buckingham Palace announced that the princess was starting divorce proceedings, saying that the couple had "agreed, after more than two years of separation, that their marriage should formally be ended."

The couple legally separat-

ed in 1989. At the time, the Palace made clear that the decision had been taken before newspapers revealed four months earlier that Commander Timothy Laurence, a former equestrian to the Queen, was the author of personal letters to the princess that were later stolen.

Palace sources have consistently said that no third party played any part in the decision to divorce. The disclosure last year that Captain Mark Phillips faced a paternity suit from Heather Tonkin, a New Zealand teacher, was said to have no bearing on the decision. Captain Phillips has said that he will contest Ms Tonkin's claim.

The princess and Captain Phillips remain friends and are giving the happiness of their children, Peter, 14, and Zara, 10, the highest priority, the Palace says. The children, who attend boarding schools, will live with their mother at Gatcombe Park during holidays. Captain Phillips has unlimited access to his son and daughter. He will live two miles from his former wife at Aston Farm, on the 730-acre Gatcombe estate, a present to the couple from the Queen.

Divorce proved the great leveller for the Princess Royal, who had to answer questions on a standard affidavit form like Mr and Mrs Average.

In the form, signed at Heathrow airport on April 21, and witnessed by a solicitor, James Bacon, the princess said that by the date of separation, September 29, 1989, "we had both come to the conclusion that the marriage had come to an end".

Ex-MP jailed for swindle

By RICHARD DUCE

JOHN Ryman, the five times married former Labour MP, was jailed yesterday for two and a half years for tricking two women out of £115,000 to meet maintenance payments to his first wife.

The former MP for Blyth Valley had claimed to be a director of a Swiss bank and had promised a return of 22.5 per cent on money entrusted to him by Vera Chalker, 65, a widow, and Gladys Reynolds, 50, a divorcee. Bristol Crown Court was told. Ryman, 63, also persuaded them to invest in his Somerset-based securities firm but there was no record that the company ever traded. Some of the money was paid to his first wife, Dr Shirley Summerskill, the daughter of Baroness Summerskill, the court was told. She did not know how the money had been

obtained. Judge Bursell told Ryman: "I accept that you are of previous good character... but I have to bear in mind the devastation you have brought to these two women."

Peter Thomas, for the prosecution, said that Ryman met Mrs Chalker, who worked on *The Economist* magazine, in January 1988 on a train. "By their third meeting he told her he was a director for a Swiss bank. He said that if she invested her funds through him she would get 22.5 per cent interest a year. She was charmed by him and started to liquidate her assets. She said she took cash out of her building society and gave it to Mr Ryman."

Between August 1988 and July 1989 he took two cheques from Mrs Chalker for £31,476 and £22,984 and later persuaded her to take

out a £50,000 mortgage on her home in Bath to meet the debts of his firm, South Western Securities in Frome.

Mr Thomas said that Ryman also took cheques from Mrs Reynolds for £15,000 and £5,000 after introducing himself as a Phillip Spencer, the director of a Swiss bank. "The couple began seeing each other and became affectionate and planned to buy a house together."

Ryman, a barrister who defended himself, admitted four specimen charges. Two related to dishonestly obtaining cheques from Mrs Chalker and two of theft of cheques from Mrs Reynolds.

The last of his five wives, Nicola, 53, of South Petherton, near Yeovil, who divorced him, said last night: "I am glad he is behind bars. He is a danger to women."

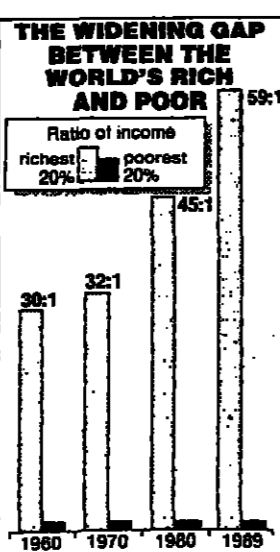
Britain makes the good life top ten

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has entered the top ten of desirable countries in which to live, according to the United Nations table that attempts to measure quality of life in its 160 member states.

The UN Development Programme says that the UK has moved from eleventh to tenth in its 1992 Human Development Index, a ranking system that combines income, literacy and life expectancy. The index throws up some interesting results, putting Barbados ahead of Italy, and making the United States only sixth, in spite of its unsurpassed spending power per individual.

Canada has narrowly displaced Japan at the top of the rankings. Norway, Switzerland and Sweden complete the top five places.



Self-congratulation may be tempered by the report's disclosures that the gap between the world's richest and poorest people has doubled in the past thirty years, and that

Britain provides the lowest per capita overseas aid of all the European donors.

The richest twenty per cent of countries in the world are nearly 60 times richer than the poorest, compared with 30 times in 1960. Taking into account income disparity within countries, the world's richest billion people are 150 times wealthier than the poorest billion. The index highlights the continuing tragedy of Africa: 37 of the bottom 50 countries are African, with Guinea propping up the table.

The index, begun in 1990, is an attempt to take a broader measure of human happiness than gross domestic product. The improvement in Britain's position over last year is a reflection of statistical rather than social reality.

The current report made use of numerous sets of fig-

ures which only became available at the end of the 1980s. It also announces that in future, political freedom may be added as another index factor alongside income levels, educational attainment and longevity, although it admits that the concept is hard to measure mathematically.

Nineteen of the top twenty countries are industrialised nations. Barbados, a developing country, is twentieth. Italians have nearly double the spending power of Barbadians, and live longer, but have a lower adult literacy rate and spend less time in education.

Life expectancy is 75.7 years in Britain, 75.9 years in America, and 78.6 in Japan. Britain has the second greatest number of nurses per occupied hospital bed in Europe after Switzerland.

Leading article, page 11



Knight Companion: Sir Edward yesterday. He joins Lord Wilson of Rievaulx and Lord Callaghan of Cardiff in the order

Queen appoints Heath to Order of Garter

By RAY CLANCY

EDWARD Heath, the former prime minister who took Britain into the Common Market, has been appointed a Knight Companion of the Order of the Garter, the most senior order of chivalry. Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

Sir Edward said last night that he deeply appreciated the honour. It comes shortly before, as the longest serving MP, he takes up a new role as the Father of the House of Commons, where he has sat since 1950. Colleagues are expecting him to indulge the more jovial side of his nature now that Margaret Thatcher, his old adversary, has left the Commons.

On returning from holiday Sir Edward, 75, said: "I am immensely honoured by Her Majesty the Queen's decision to confer a knighthood of the Order of the Garter upon me. I deeply appreciate that Her Majesty should have chosen personally to honour me in this way."



Long service: success at Bexley in the 1951 poll

The honour, a personal gift of the sovereign, also goes to Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover and Viscount Ridley, who is Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, Chancellor of the University of Newcastle and Lord

Steward of the royal household.

The three appointments fill vacancies in the order left by the deaths of the Earl of Cromer, Viscount De L'Isle, VC, and Lord Ashburton. The order is limited to 24 Knights Companions.

As a former prime minister, Sir Edward could have had a peerage at any time he chose, but it is believed that he was unwilling to take such an award from Mrs Thatcher and wished to outlast her in the Commons. He has thus remained comparatively unrewarded for his services to the country.

His single biggest achievement was taking Britain into the European Community, but his four-year premiership was marred by industrial disputes and the three-day week.

His relationship with Mrs Thatcher, after she challenged him for the Tory leadership, has always been fraught, described by her supporters as "the longest sulk in history", but it now appears in a new light as she

is making plain her criticisms of John Major.

Sir Edward, a bachelor, has maintained a high profile internationally, serving on the Brundage Commission and winning freedom in 1991 for Gulf war hostages. He has also given time to his hobbies of sailing and music, subjects on which he wrote best-sellers.

The vigour of his attacks on Mrs Thatcher's policies increased steadily through her premiership. In 1981, in the face of soaring interest rates in the United States, he urged that Britain make a U-turn and join the European monetary system, something that Mrs Thatcher steadfastly refused to consider.

From then on, he undertook a series of outspoken attacks on Mrs Thatcher of which the most vitriolic was the onslaught on her policies during the Tory party conference at Blackpool in October 1981. Their relations have been barely civil and, on occasion, he would refer to her as "that woman". They clashed again at last

year's Conservative party conference when he accused her of breaking an agreement that they would appear on the platform at different times.

Friends believe that Sir Edward, who has become a famed and generous host at his Queen Anne house in Salisbury Cathedral Close, may now enter a more mellow phase in the Commons, indulging more frequently the humour which has been more evident in his speeches of recent years, as when he urged the Tory party conference: "Don't applaud me. It takes up precious time and, anyway, it may annoy your neighbour."

Five former prime ministers — Churchill, Eden, Attlee, Wilson and Callaghan — have been appointed Knights Companions of the order. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Kent are Royal Knights. A number of foreign monarchs, including King Juan Carlos of Spain, have been appointed Extra Knights.

Trawler sank after collision

By TONY DAVE

THE mystery sinking of a trawler with the loss of five lives was caused by a "hit-and-run" accident in the English Channel, government investigators confirmed yesterday, eight months after denying that there was any evidence of a collision. Divers had confirmed that a collision occurred.

The findings of a marine accident enquiry team from the transport department was welcomed by relatives of the crew, who had always insisted that the sinking of the Ocean Hound in calm weather last August must have been caused by a collision.

The report disclosed that the 72-ft trawler, registered in Brixham, Devon, was hit at night in the Dover Straits and capsized. "The unknown vessel did not stop," the enquiry said. "It is possible that she was unaware of the collision. However the Ocean Hound's presence ought to have been recognised well before the event if a proper look out was being kept."

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A million first-time buyers caught in mortgage debt trap

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a million first-time buyers could have mortgages higher than the value of their homes, according to research from the brokers UBS Phillips and Drew.

The figure is far higher than that reported earlier this week by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which estimated that 380,000 of all homeowners had debts larger than their assets.

With roughly ten million mortgage holders, that means that more than one in ten people with mortgages are trapped by debt. They are unable to sell their home till prices go up. They can't sell and are stuck," Dr John Wriglesworth, of UBS Phillips and Drew said.

This was "deeply unfortunate" for those involved but would not necessarily slow a recovery in the housing market which was determined by new first-time buyers. "The problem is not the number of houses for sale but the num-

ber of people who want to buy."

Dr Wriglesworth's research analyses house price falls and the number of first-time buyers, the homeowners most likely to be in trouble because at least 50 per cent of them took out mortgages of more than 95 per cent of the value of their home. He examines figures from mid-1988 to March 1992, while the Council of Mortgage Lenders' analysis looks at house price falls only to the autumn of 1991.

"The CML has stopped too early," Dr Wriglesworth said. "House prices over the past six months have been worse than in any six-month period. This partly explains why the council's figures underestimated the seriousness of the problem," he added.

The council's figures also underestimated the number of homeowners in trouble because they used statistics from the environment depart-

ment. Dr Wriglesworth used statistics from the Halifax which uses 15 per cent of all prices rather than the environment department's 5 per cent.

"A million first-time buyers in trouble is a conservative estimate," Dr Wriglesworth said. "My research only looks at first-time buyers in four southern regions where the price falls have been the most dramatic."

A spokesman for the council said that its research looked only at house price falls up to last autumn. The council had updated its figures to include house price falls to March this year, and admitted that the number of first-time buyers in debt had grown sharply.

"But I think the million figure is too high. We estimate another 200,000 first-time buyers would be facing negative equity, which would make 580,000 homeowners altogether."



Cabaret couture: Diane Gurney and Julie Martin modelling two of the 5,000 cabaret costumes to be sold at Bonham's, west London, next Thursday

Don in Civil War dispute may quit

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE Cambridge don at the centre of a dispute over seveneenth century history, involving academics on both sides of the Atlantic, might leave the university to take up another post. Dr John Adamson, a fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge, has been offered an editor's job with the History of Parliament Trust. He would be editing autobiographies of British MPs of the period 1640-60.

Dr Adamson is considering whether to take the post, which could mean relinquishing his fellowship before it is due to end in October, next year. Many colleagues hope he will go, to spare the university further embarrassment over the dispute, which is about the reading of key documents from the English Civil War.

Earlier this year Dr Adamson clashed with Mark Kishlansky, professor of history at Harvard University, about the role of the nobility in the Civil War. Professor Kishlansky, writing in the *Historical Journal*, accused Dr Adamson of manipulating evidence and using footnotes to disguise the errors. Interventions have come from historians including Lord Dacre of Glanton and Lord Russell, who support Dr Adamson. Lord Russell acted as a consultant to the trust over the editorship.

In February, Dr Adamson failed to win re-election as a fellow of Peterhouse. But such is the dispute about the increasingly public dispute,

that Peterhouse dons have voted to review their re-election procedures. The dispute has been aired several times in the letters pages of *The Times Literary Supplement* and historical journals.

Dr Adamson will decide next week whether to take the post with the trust, a government sponsored body set up in the 1950s by Sir Lewis Namier. Dr Adamson said: "I have not made any decisions at this stage. I will decide by early next week. If I take the post it will not necessarily preclude me from remaining at the university. I am taking advice from my colleagues and friends."

Lord Russell, who is expected to become a trustee of the trust, in Bloomsbury, is believed to be in favour of Dr Adamson taking up the post. Lord Russell, who accused Professor Kishlansky in *The Times Literary Supplement* of "malice", said that Dr Adamson was one of the most innovative historians of his generation. Lord Russell, in his book *The Causes of the English Civil War*, describes Dr Adamson as the Prince of Serendip, and refers to him in the footnotes on ten of the 219 pages.

Dr Adamson's disputed views on the nobility would not count for as much as he would like in the new post. The trust does not include biographies on members of the House of Lords. Dons hope that the dispute will die down if Dr Adamson takes the trust job.

ITV chiefs approve new deal

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT Television companies reached agreement yesterday on a competitive system for the commissioning and scheduling of networked programmes for the next ten years.

After months of delay, the new ITV licences will today submit to the Independent Television Commission detailed proposals for a central commissioning unit, which will end the ITV programme supply cartel next year by allowing Britain's 900 independent producers to compete with the broadcasters for a slice of the £500 million annual programme budget.

The system, which represents the biggest structural change in ITV's 35-year history, will not be disclosed by the commission until next week. The commission had planned to publish details early this month but was forced to call off a press conference after legal wrangling among ITV companies over the size of their contribution to the network's £500 million budget.

Greg Dyke, chief executive of LWT and chairman of the ITV Association's Council, said: "We believe ITV is now set to capitalise on its current ratings success. We have no doubt that the system we have devised will both maintain and enhance ITV as the most popular channel."

The commission had told the companies that if they did not submit a proposal by today they would run the risk of having it imposed.

Three in court after bank raid

Three men appeared in court yesterday charged in connection with a raid on a bank cash dispenser.

Christopher Hayter, 29, a crane driver, Eamonn Byrne, 32, unemployed, and Daniel Bassett, 26, unemployed, all of south London, appeared before Havering magistrates, east London, charged with trespassing at the Abbey National bank in Romford with intent to steal.

They were remanded in police custody until tomorrow. There was no application for bail.

Doctor fined

James Dogherty, 63, a GP, of Islington, north London, escaped a ban for driving while over the legal alcohol limit after telling Thames magistrates that he had not realised that he had been drinking Madeira while visiting a suicidal patient. He was fined £200.

Pool rescue

Three men were taken to hospital after being overcome by fumes from a chlorine spillage at a swimming pool in Harlow, Essex. They were rescued by firemen.

Rodin thefts

Three Rodin statues, worth more than £100,000, have been stolen from an art gallery in Walthamstow, east London.

Final score

Work is to be rescheduled at the Nissan car plant in Sunderland on May 9 so workers can watch the city's soccer team in the FA Cup final.

Farmers open the door to townies

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS set aside decades of distrust of "townie" intruders yesterday by agreeing to accept many of them into their fold.

The National Farmers' Union aims to double its support by offering a new class of membership to anyone who owns or rents land that is "more than a garden but less than a commercial farm". David Hellard, who drew up the scheme, said that market research suggested that there were about 100,000 people who would qualify, roughly equal to the union's existing but shrinking membership.

There is no hard and fast rule about how much land needs to be owned or occupied," he said. "It could range from one or two acres to as many as 50. The main criterion is that the users must be non-commercial farmers who do not depend on the land for a living."

The countryside membership scheme, which will start on May 1, will open the union's doors to new members including hobby farm-

ers, those with second homes in the country and a paddock for their children's horses and others such as amateur beekeepers. Farmers have in the past seen these interlopers as fairweather countrymen who appear only at weekends and spend much of their time complaining about the smells and noise that are an unavoidable part of commercial agriculture.

"The reaction to the initiative from our members has been mixed," Mr Hellard said. "But these new residents are a growing part of the rural scene and have a legitimate interest in the countryside. We feel we should embrace them rather than try and keep them at arm's length."

Countryside members will pay £27.50 a year, compared with the £69 plus a levy of 70 pence an acre paid by full members. They will get a regular newsletter and have access to insurance at competitive rates. They will not have voting rights or be able to use the NFU's professional and legal advice.

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Vio TV won't

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK

VIOLENCE against women on television is part of a dramatic rise in crime reporting, say women viewers who are not alone in feeling uncomfortable to watch. A study commissioned by the Broadcasting Standards Commission.

Three-quarters of women, whether watching violence or not, said that the coverage of violence against women on television was "disturbing". The women's fear of being attacked, however, was not the main reason for their dislike of the coverage, which was simply reinforced fears about rape.

Eighty-seven per cent of those who had suffered violence and 90 per cent of those who had not, though crime reporting would make women more cautious, said. Many women said that as broadcasters' coverage of sexual crime against women was so high, such violence could deter men from violence. Publications.

Disability travel protests

BY PETER VICTOR

SELF-SERVICE petrol stations, car parks and public transport have been criticised for their provision for disabled people. A report by the AA Association says that improvements are needed to help the disabled to get more easily.

The report, *Mobile Access*, based on responses from 1,134 people with disabilities, found that 52 per cent had problems at petrol forecourts and half could not reach the pay-and-display car. Able-bodied motorists frequently parked in spaces reserved for the disabled.

Only one in five disabled used British Rail, similar number used "Travelers with disabilities" account for more than ten of the adult population. Kenneth Faircloth, AA's director-general, said they cannot begin to enforce freedom of movement for the disabled, but that would, in the long term, be a benefit to all travellers.

Comments from people included: "Parasol parking area, no of ten cars do not belong to disabled people." A said: "People take one you, and if you have your head under your then you are not disabled." Last month, the ment tightened up the range Badge parking for the disabled to reduce abuse. The AA that 85 per cent of disabled felt that the system had been widely abused.

Ch...

BY MICHAEL DYER, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS will be able to drive under the net, in spite of proposals to construct a second through Channel tunnel, 2020, Eurotunnel's have said.

Safety and technicalities, including the cost of motorists becoming notified while driving through 31 miles of tunnel and the impossibility of tracking exhaust emissions, mean that the second tunnel will also be for trains.

Eurotunnel's admission to millions of motorists whose dream of driving to the Continent more likely to make the nineteenth-century engraving of the Channel tunnel envisaging a drawn-up carriage, under the seabed, illuminated by search lamps, and then propelled by windmills, emerging from the sea.

Under the terms of a year concession signed between Eurotunnel and British and French governments, Eurotunnel present a proposal

Violence on TV 'makes women feel less safe'

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VIOLENCE against women on television, particularly dramatised rape scenes and crime reporting, make most women viewers feel more vulnerable to attack, according to a study commissioned by the Broadcasting Standards Council.

Three-quarters of all women, whether victims of violence or not, said reconstructions of violent crimes against women on factual programmes such as *Crimewatch UK* increased women's fear of being attacked. However, many said that the portrayal of violence simply reinforced existing fears about rape.

Eighty-seven per cent of those who had suffered violence and 90 per cent of those who had not thought that crime reporting would make women more safety-conscious. Many women said that as long as broadcasters did not trivialise or sensationalise crimes against women, or blame women for men's violence, such violent scenes could deter men from violence. Publication of the

study, *Women Viewing Violence*, coincides with a dramatic increase in the number of crime and accident reconstructions on television. They include *Crimestoppers*, *Crime Monthly* and *Murder Squad* on ITV, and the forthcoming BBC series 999 and *Crimewatch UK* team Nick Ross and Sue Cook.

Half of the people questioned said they did not know whether crime reporting would encourage men to commit violence against women. But of those who offered an opinion, nearly three-quarters of victims of domestic or sexual violence believed that crime reporting would encourage male violence, and almost the same proportion of women who had not suffered violence said it would not.

Professor Rebecca Dobash, a sociologist from the University of Wales and one of the authors, said all the women interviewed were more fearful of being attacked by a stranger, even though statistically women were more likely to be raped by a man they knew or to suffer domestic violence.

But she said the women's responses showed that their sense of vulnerability had not been caused by the media which had instead reinforced fears pre-dating the invention of television.

Although there were significant differences between women's attitudes to crime depending on their social background, race and personal experience of violence, all were united in their concern about how violence against women on television could affect child viewers.

The study, the first to assess how victims of crime respond to the depiction on television, asked women for their reactions to a *Crimewatch UK* report on the abduction and murder of a female hitchhiker; an episode of *EastEnders* focusing on a violent relationship between two characters; *Closing Ranks*, an ITV play about marital violence; and *The Accused*, a Hollywood film dealing with gang rape.

Many women expressed worry about the impact on male viewers of *The Accused*, which was shown in edited form on BBC1 earlier this year. Although the film carried a positive message for women, it was feared that men might have "got a kick" from the rape scene.

The £38,000 study, conducted by four leading sociologists and media experts at the Universities of Stirling and Wales, involved discussion groups with 91 women and questionnaires completed by 546 women.

Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, said the findings would play a part when the council revised its code of practice. He said that a "high proportion" of complaints upheld by the BSC involved depictions of violence against women.

Women Viewing Violence. The British Film Institute, 21 Stephen Street, London W1P 1PL.



This way up: Amy Dyke-Coombes, eight, watches Aisleyne Morgan-Wallace, 13, practising on the trapeze at the North Westminster Community School, London, where French artists, invited by the British organisation Circus UK, are holding workshops to teach circus acts to adults and children

Many sex abusers are children

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THE number of children who sexually abuse other children is much higher than previously thought, according to a report published yesterday by the National Children's Home.

The findings of a committee of enquiry set up in October 1990 show that one in three cases of sexual abuse involve abusers under the age of 18 and that children as young as three have been known to display "sexually inappropriate behaviour". Up to £50 million a year was needed to provide facilities to deal with the problem.

Tom White, chairman of the committee and chief executive of National Children's Home, said that cases of sexual

abuse by children on other children had tended to be ignored or put down to childhood experimentation. But in studying cases it had been fairly easy to differentiate between appropriate and abusive behaviour. The committee found that if offenders went untreated they were likely to continue to sexually abuse into adulthood.

A cycle of abuse could establish itself and child abusers were often reacting to their own sexual abuse or victimisation. In one case a child who had been abused from the age of nine months had never known life without some sort of sexual experience.

The report warned parents

of the dangers of letting children see pornographic material as there was a possible link between pornography and the development of abusive behaviour. Valerie Howarth, director of Childline, the service for children in trouble, said: "Some children are exposed to pornography and are asked or ask others to repeat what they have seen. This is a worrying area which must be looked at in detail."

The committee's recommendations included establishing a "continuum of care". Services ranging from child guidance clinics to secure accommodation should offer treatment programmes. When proof of an offence established the child's school

should be informed. Abusers should never be placed with foster parents who have younger children.

Jennifer Temkin, professor of law at the University of Buckingham and a committee member, said that training was urgently needed for magistrates and judges in dealing with child abusers. "Treatment is the key if the criminal justice system is to be used; it must be looked at in detail."

Tim Yeo, the junior health minister, said that the report was being studied by the health department but that it was too early to say whether extra resources were needed.

Tourists flock to Northern Ireland

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

AS RESORTS from the Mediterranean to Margate struggle to win back tourists, Northern Ireland has seen the number of visitors to its shores double in the past three years.

Last year 76,000 holiday-makers from the British mainland visited, up 38 per cent on 1990, and indications are that this year will set new records.

Rainbow Holidays has trebled the number of hotels in its new Northern Ireland brochure to cope with the expected demand. "We only had four hotels in the brochure when we began sending people to the province last year," Margaret Simpson, its director, said. "It proved so popular that we have increased that number to 12. Those who have discovered Ulster want to go back and the message seems to be getting through that any terrorist trouble is confined to just a few areas."

With hotels offering dinner, bed and breakfast from £26 a night and even the most expensive four star hotel costing little more than £50 a night, short breaks are proving particularly attractive.

One in five visitors to Northern Ireland now goes purely for a holiday compared to one in nine less than ten years ago. Of the 263,000 holidaying in the province in 1991 more than 40 per cent came from the Irish republic while the number from mainland Britain rose 38 per cent to 76,000.

Even tourists from north America, who stayed away from traditional European destinations in droves in the aftermath of the Gulf war, increased by 9 per cent to 20,400 last year and travel agents are now including a visit to the province as part of their grand European tours. Visitors helped to produce revenue of £162 million last year.

Two held after murders in hostel

Two men were being questioned by police yesterday after a double murder in a hostel for homeless people.

Andrew White, 29, was found bludgeoned to death in the lounge of the house, in Holbeck, Leeds. Lesley Baines, 38, had been strangled and was lying in an upstairs bedroom.

They were thought to be the only occupants of the house. Police broke in after a friend said that he was worried because he had not seen the men since last week.

Charges added

Robert "Peanut" Jones, who is accused of killing the British tourist Julie Stott during a robbery in New Orleans, has been charged in connection with five other robberies, dating from October 1990. The charges include robbery, kidnapping and rape.

Victims named

Two more victims of a house fire in Hove, East Sussex, on Saturday night have been named. They are Paul Jones, 33, and Adrian Johns, 32, both of Brighton. Five people died in the fire.

Five held

Armed police arrested five people yesterday after a hold-up in East Crinestead, West Sussex, on Tuesday night. Two sawn-off shotguns and ammunition were found.

Bakers fined

The Don Miller Hot Bread Kitchen company, a nationwide bakery chain based in Luton, Bedfordshire, was fined a total of £11,750 by Norwich magistrates for 18 hygiene offences at its shop in the city.

Pet passion

Phil Sayers and Val Scott, of Binfield, Berkshire, have been ordered to obtain planning permission for 1,462 birds and animals which they keep at their home. Bracknell council says that the menagerie is too large to be considered a pet collection.

Coroner appeals for help over death

A CORONER yesterday appealed to the public to help police to catch the kidnapper of Jo Ramsden, who suffered from Down's syndrome, before he struck again. Her body was found in woodland on the Devon-Dorset border six weeks ago, nearly a year after she disappeared from her home in Bridport, 11 miles away.

Michael Johnston, the West Dorset coroner who opened the inquest on Miss Ramsden in Dorchester, said: "Somebody somewhere knows very much more about how Jo came to disappear than they are at the moment saying. He gave warning: 'The man who is prepared to take away someone of Jo's nature is not going to stop. He is going to do it again.'"

Mr Johnston adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed, after being told that Miss Ramsden, 21, was identified from dental records and clothing. Her body was found in a wood at Hole Bottom near Lyme Regis. Mr Johnston said it was "very likely"

that people close to the person involved in Miss Ramsden's disappearance were aware, or had reason to suspect, they knew the identity of the man with fairish hair, a jazzy sweater and a black car.

On the day Miss Ramsden vanished she was seen talking to a man of that description, and was last seen in a black car. The man, known as Mr Zigzag because of the pattern on his jumper, is still being hunted by Dorset police in a nationwide enquiry. Mr Johnston said it was possible that the man who drove her away had nothing to do with her death, but it was important he should be excluded from enquiries.

After the hearing, Det Supt Des Donohoe, the head of Dorset CID, supported the coroner's appeal for public help in catching the "despicable" person who took Miss Ramsden. Attempts were being made to establish the cause of her death, he said. Police interviewed 4,500 people during their search for Miss Ramsden.

"I think she agreed because she realises if she speaks through NEWSWEEK, she speaks globally..."

Daniel Pedersen, Newsweek's London Bureau Chief on Margaret Thatcher's article in this weeks issue of NEWSWEEK's International edition.

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Channel motorists hit a dead end

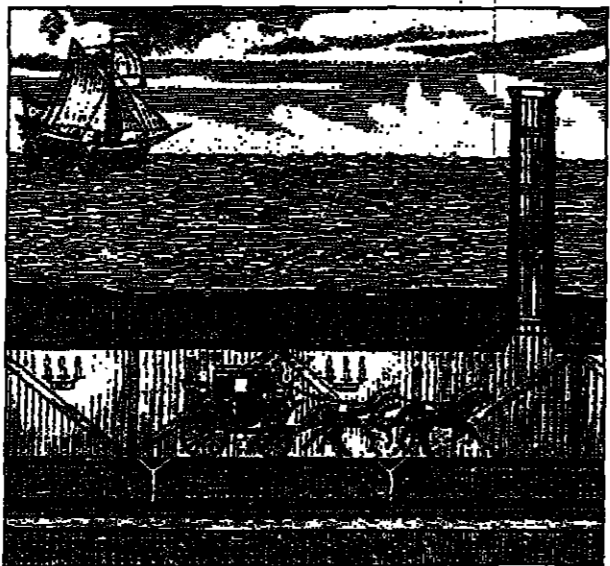
BY MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS will never be able to drive under the Channel in spite of proposals to construct a second drive-through Channel tunnel by 2020, Eurotunnel officials have said.

Safety and technical difficulties, including the danger of motorists becoming hypnotised while driving through 31 miles of tunnel, and the impossibility of extracting exhaust emissions, mean that the second tunnel will also be for trains.

Eurotunnel's admission will come as a disappointment to millions of motorists whose dream of driving direct to the Continent is no more likely to materialise than the nineteenth century engraving of the Channel tunnel envisaging horse drawn carriages driven under the seabed, their way illuminated by naked gas lamps, and their oxygen supplied by ventilation shafts emerging from the sea.

Under the terms of the 55-year concession agreement between Eurotunnel and the British and French governments, Eurotunnel must present a proposal for a



Sea horses: a modern interpretation of French proposals for a drive-through tunnel in 1802

drive-through tunnel by 2000, assuming that such a scheme can be shown to be feasible. If Eurotunnel fails to present a car tunnel plan by 2010, the government can invite tenders from other companies, although it would not be permitted to allow the second tunnel to come into use before 2020. Eurotunnel officials are

remarkably sanguine about the impossibility of building a drive-through tunnel. Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand saw such a tunnel as a monument to the age of freedom symbolised by the private car. In the 1990s, however, it is no longer fashionable to accept the inalienable right of motorists to go where they please. Motorists

would be mesmerised by driving so far in a tunnel, a sensation far more acute than that felt during motorway driving. John Noulton, Eurotunnel's public affairs director, said: "It is not a question of when you would have multiple pile-ups but how often."

The technical difficulties in extracting carbon monoxide emissions would make the project prohibitively expensive. "The ventilation problem would be solved if cars emitted pure oxygen," Mr Noulton said. "But if you had to change the air you would probably need shafts up through the seabed, and huge fans to drive the bad air out of the tunnel. It would be like driving through a gale down there."

Eurotunnel's rail tunnel scheme was chosen because it was the safest for passengers, presented fewer technical challenges, was less susceptible to sabotage, entailed no obstacles to shipping, and was most likely to attract private sector finance. As far as Eurotunnel is concerned, nothing has changed.

Motoring,
L&T section, page 8

Warsaw acts to quell private-sector strike

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

ONE of the first strikes at a private company in eastern Europe is turning nasty. Anti-terrorist units yesterday moved on to the factory grounds of Elgaz in Gdynia on the Polish Baltic coast to search for hidden explosives.

More than 200 strikers have been told that they are breaking the law, that they have been sacked and that they may soon be evicted by riot police. This strange turn-about — Gdynia, along with Gdansk, was the cradle of the Solidarity movement in 1980 — reveals much about the state of early capitalism in Eastern Europe.

The bomb threats and the scuffles yesterday between workers and Janusz Leksztan, the Elgaz owner, are only a part of the aggression that is spilling over in labour and commercial disputes in Poland. A new, private dental surgery in Warsaw had a grenade lobbed through its window a few days ago, and a firebomb was placed in the offices of Kodak after it reduced processing charges.

Mr Leksztan began his career in 1985 scouring

Gdansk rubbish dumps for scrap metal which he resold. Since then he has built up one of the largest privately owned companies in Poland with a turnover last quarter of at least £20 million. He dominated the Polish market for gas heaters as well as for plastic window frames. He has also branched out into video distribution, laid the foundations of a private television station and runs a small private airline. He is also one of the main car distributors.

Although only 30 years old, he ranks as the fifth wealthiest man in Poland. But his rapid expansion was financed by bank loans, and high interest rates and slow business have left him short of cash. Workers say they have not been paid since January and are refusing either to leave the factory or release 300 Nissan cars due for distribution by Elgaz.

Mr Leksztan owes money to banks, the treasury and other entrepreneurs as well as his workers. He says that he cannot pay the workers until the end of May, and has resorted

to the repressive labour law passed during the communist era which forbids any strikes that could be socially harmful. The workers, many of whom fought for Solidarity in the 1980s, are reliving the trauma of years gone by, this time at the hands of a private entrepreneur and a Solidarity government.

Meanwhile Lech Grobelny, a fugitive businessman, has been run to ground in Germany. Like Mr Leksztan he was one of Poland's early home-grown capitalists. He built up a network of photo booths and when the Polish currency became partially convertible in 1989, he changed the booths into bureaux de changes. With the fortune he amassed he set up Eastern Europe's first private bank. It offered competitive interest rates and Poles flocked to pay in their savings. Mr Grobelny then disappeared, taking most of the money with him.

The Polish authorities yesterday requested his extradition and his trial should disclose much about the Polish private economy.

Divisions of labour tax MPs

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

NEWLY-elected deputies from the League of the North and Alessandra Mussolini, the Neo-Fascist, basked in the limelight yesterday when the Italian parliament opened.

But the principal political groupings failed to agree a formula to share the key posts of president in the chamber of deputies and the senate. A vote in the two houses of parliament failed to produce a quorum for any candidate. Political experts said this boded ill for efforts to find a new coalition to replace the outgoing alliance led by Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister.

Cameramen and photographers pushed and jostled when Signora Mussolini, 29, arrived. But she was too late to lay claim to the seat her grandfather Benito occupied for a year as a Fascist deputy before he became prime minister in 1922. She sat on the back benches instead and talked to her mother on a mobile phone.



Blonde ambition: Alessandra Mussolini, newly elected deputy of the Neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement, taking her seat in parliament yesterday

Russians see signs of hope in market

Moscow: Russia yesterday issued very poor economic results for the first quarter of 1992, but noted also the first signs that market mechanisms were starting to work. These are the first quarterly figures since the government freed most retail prices (Mary Dejevsky writes).

Recording a 14 per cent fall in state revenue, and a 13 per cent fall in industrial production compared with the first quarter of 1991, the Statistics Office said: "Demand is exerting a greater influence on pricing, the market is filling up with goods and economic relations are being conducted increasingly in money (as opposed to barter)."

In the food sector, quantities of milk and meat bought by the state had fallen. The report did not assess sales of food outside the state system.

Duke buried

Miami: About 50 mourners gathered at a Russian Orthodox funeral here for Grand Duke Vladimir Kirillovich Romanov, the claimant to the Russian throne. (Reuters)

Ports close

Paris: A dockers' strike paralysed most French ports for the second day, port and union sources said. The protest has affected 13 ports. (Reuters)

Volga accord

Bonn: Russia and Germany have reached an agreement that will grant autonomy to 2.5 million ethnic Germans in the Volga region. (AFP)

Lava advances

Catania: Lava from Mount Etna rolled over the last barrier protecting Zafferana, penetrating to within a few hundred yards of the village, the closest yet. (AFP)

Basque cleared

Strasbourg: The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that a Basque senator was wrongly convicted of insulting the Spanish government in an article. (Reuters)

Treaty upheld

Kiev: Ukraine's parliament said nuclear forces should be withdrawn from the Black Sea and affirmed the intention to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Lang retreats

Paris: Jack Lang, France's minister of education, said that he was dropping a bill on university reform that had led to student protests throughout the country. (AFP)

Mickey taken

Rome: Police in Milan have seized more than 22,000 pirate copies of videos of Disney cartoon favourites, including Snow White, Bambi, Pinocchio and Dumbo. (AFP)

Central Asia airs its fears

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE five republics of former Soviet Central Asia at a meeting in the Kirghiz capital, Bishkek, called for the Commonwealth of Independent States to be strengthened amid fears that the region — underdeveloped and impoverished — will soon be left to fend for itself.

The meeting was attended by four of the five Central Asian leaders. Rakhmon Nabiyev, Tajikistan's president, who is facing an open revolt in his capital, Dushanbe, was absent.

The Bishkek meeting reflected concern in the Central Asian republics that the commonwealth, four months after it was founded, is about to collapse. Russia's recent decision to form its own defence ministry and army has left the Central Asian republics with the prospect of having to fund and organise their own defence.

The five republics held their first summit almost two years ago in Tashkent, but co-ordinating their policies became more urgent after the Minsk meeting last December, when Russia, Ukraine and Belarusia buried the Soviet Union and formed the commonwealth. Yesterday, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan's president, said that the next commonwealth summit in Tashkent would "make or break" it.

Beaux gestes speak louder than words

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

TURN off the sound when President Mitterrand is speaking on television and his body language becomes a show in itself: hands in constant movement, eyebrows shooting up and down, expressive shrugs and dismissive waves, that taut, dangerous smile. Nobody in French politics today comes close to matching Mitterrand's range.

The president has become more like De Gaulle since being re-elected for a second term in 1988, especially in his use of the general's familiar chopping with one hand. At the request of the newspaper *Le Quotidien de Paris*, a French psychiatrist has reassessed the presidential "vocabulary" of gestures focusing on Mitterrand's most recent appearance before journalists.

This closely followed the sacking of Edith Cresson as prime minister. Unsurprisingly, Dr Boris Cyrulnik concluded that the president felt somewhat besieged: "Raising the eyebrows at the same time as the pupils are lowered, the mouth pinched, hands clenched, body in full retreat." The unspoken message to his interviewers: "I shall try to evade your questions and weede bedde anyone who pushes too hard."

Perhaps the clue lies in Dr Cyrulnik's work as director of a "laboratory of ethnology", which the same dictionary defines as the study of

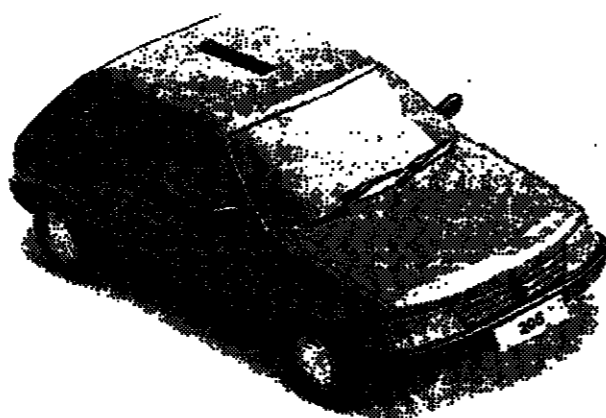


Mitterrand: becoming more like De Gaulle

the behaviour of animals in their natural environment. Where else to find a leading politician, in these days of the sound bite, than the television studio, ducking awkward questions with appropriately convincing comportment?

Those viewers who managed to stay awake through the 45-minute Mitterrand interview would probably find most interest in Dr Cyrulnik's remarks about the two women journalists participating, Christine Ockrent and Anne Sinclair, both stars of the small screen. While the former's questions usually found Mitterrand head down, frowning at the table, Mme Sinclair's interventions were received with far less defensive body language not to mention occasional smiles.

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Murd seeks Macedonia solution

CHRISTOPHER LUCK
IN ATHENS AND
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Militiamen wary as guns fall silent EC envoys demand effective ceasefire

FROM TIM JUDDAH IN SARAJEVO

A DISCONSOLATE Muslim militiaman in the centre of Sarajevo yesterday summed up the scepticism that exists towards Lord Carrington's peace mission. "As soon as Carrington flies out it'll all begin again," he said.

It was hardly a vote of confidence in the chairman of the European Community peace conference on Yugoslavia and the Portuguese foreign minister who yesterday risked life and limb by coming to the Bosnian capital to demand an end to the fighting that is wrenching Europe's newest state apart.

"It is time to get tough with everybody," said Lord Carrington, whose exasperation with the leaders of former Yugoslavia and especially their unkept promises is well

known to all. Yesterday afternoon Lord Carrington and João de Deus Pinheiro announced that all sides had agreed to abide by an already existing but unkept ceasefire. They threatened that if it did not hold then the next session of EC sponsored talks on Bosnia's future would not take place.

"If they don't agree we have made it clear that only chaos and bloodshed lie ahead," Senhor Pinheiro said. Portugal currently holds the presidency of the EC and one of its senior diplomats has been playing a pivotal role in negotiations between Bosnia's Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

Despite these threats fierce fighting was reported in the mainly Croat populated town of Capljina and 48 were re-

ported wounded in clashes in predominantly Muslim Bosanska Krupa. Sarajevo was quiet, though. "This is probably because Lord Carrington is here," was the acid comment of Bosnian Radio — but one made with the benefit of experience. Hours after the dignitaries had left for meetings in Belgrade and then for talks with Croatian leaders the city remained eerily calm.

Sporadic gunfire echoed around the hills, the streets emptied and Muslim militiamen in "coramandere" can raced through the city, dodging the tank traps and metal rubbish containers that pass for makeshift barricades in Sarajevo's main streets.

Some 20 people have been killed in the Bosnia capital in fighting over the past few days and scores of buildings have been damaged. A direct hit has gouged a large hole from the side of Sarajevo's television centre, twisted gutters, the tell-tale sign of a mortar hit can be seen atop the central hotel Beograd and windows have been smashed across town.

However, as last year, during the Yugoslav army's siege of Dubrovnik reports of damage to Sarajevo's old town appear to have been exaggerated. Despite the roar made by exploding mortars and other projectiles many of the shells being used in the conflict make more noise than damage. The aim is to sow panic rather than to kill in great numbers.

Yesterday many people ventured out on to the streets of the city for the first time in days. In the few shops that were open bread, biscuits and Coca-Cola were in plentiful supply. Milk, vegetables and fresh meat were not to be found.

In many other Bosnian towns there were few people left to enjoy the ceasefire. Fighting and fear has driven tens of thousands from their homes. Towns recently seized by Serb militias along the Drina river are deserted. In Olovo, north of Sarajevo, only Serb police patrolled the streets.

Ceasefire signed, page 1
Diary, page 10



Military manoeuvring: Lieutenant Colonel Lois Lodge, commanding the 260-strong British contingent of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia, arriving at the head of an advance party of 33 at Belgrade airport yesterday. "We are going to stay in Belgrade for a couple of days and then we are going to Zagreb," said Lt Col Lodge, 38, the first woman to command a regular British Army unit on an overseas mission. The contingent's headquarters will be in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, and from there members will be deployed in the four UN protected areas. Lt Col Lodge's unit, 24 Field Ambulance of the Royal Army Medical Corps, from Caterick, Yorkshire, will include six doctors, four nurses and 60 combat medics, as well as logistics and administrative staff. (Reuters)

Germany helped to trigger the war in Bosnia

George Brock argues that Bonn's miscalculations have compromised the carefully neutral stance which was being fostered by other EC nations

AS LORD Carrington and the European Community's beleaguered ceasefire monitors met outside Sarajevo, Europe's diplomats offer one of two simple explanations for the war in their midst: either that the Serbs started shooting or, more diplomatically, that all three sides — Serb, Muslim and Croat — are to blame.

Both these versions ignore the EC's responsibility. War might have come to the infant republic without the EC ever becoming entangled in the mesh of Yugoslavia's ethnic tensions: we will never know for sure.

But the killing began because of events set in train by the EC. As Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Germany's foreign minister, called yesterday for EC sanctions to restrain Serbia, no other EC minister pointed out that Herr Genscher was thrashing around in a mess which he himself had helped create. A discreet diplomatic amnesia has erased memories of Germany's role in triggering the war in Bosnia.

The sad saga of the EC's efforts to help in Yugoslavia illustrates the appalling difficulties which confront groups of states trying to co-ordinate foreign policies in the face of fast-moving conflicts fought by men who will shed blood to win or hold land. Contrary to popular myth, the EC was at first keen to stay out of Yugoslavia.

Forced into visiting Belgrade a year ago, Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, had almost to be strapped into his plane seat by a posse of EC ministers. But the EC was dealing with the late and unlamented federal government in Belgrade which insisted that it would deal with Brussels and no one else. Washington and Moscow gratefully shoved the EC into the limelight.

Europe's foreign ministers overestimated the staying power of the Yugoslav central government and underestimated the force of the nationalist passions. But the EC's mediation at least kept the traditional tensions between France and Germany over the Balkans in check and contributed to stopping the fighting moving outside Croatia. These modest achievements were wrecked by the miscalculations of the German government. As Dubrovnik was pounded by guns and jets and Croat villagers massacred, German public opinion slowly forced Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Herr Genscher to edge away from the EC's careful neutrality towards outright support for Croatian and Slovenian independence.

Having promised to recognise the republics by the end of the year come what may, Herr Genscher came here just before Christmas and asked his 11 EC colleagues to recognise the two states within 24 hours. Every European government knew that Croatian and Slovenian independence would be acknowledged sooner or later: the only influence Europe commanded was to time the recognitions so as to give peace the best chance. Lord Carrington, chairing the EC's peace talks, said that every other republic would rush to be recognised as independent. That race, he wrote to the ministers, would aggravate the insecurity of Serbian minorities and could be the "spark" which set Bosnia-Herzegovina alight. Lord Carrington was right.

● Bonn: Germany and Holland yesterday called for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the civil war in Yugoslavia and issued a firm warning to Serbia that it risked international isolation unless it withdrew its troops from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia (Jan Murray writes).

The two countries decided on the move after the failure here of talks intended to persuade Belgrade to order the Yugoslav federal army to leave disputed areas.

Hurd seeks Macedonia solution

FROM CHRISTOPHER ELIOU IN ATHENS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, declined to commit himself to Greece's request that the European Community withhold recognition of the breakaway Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, if it adopts that name, the same as that of a northern Greek province.

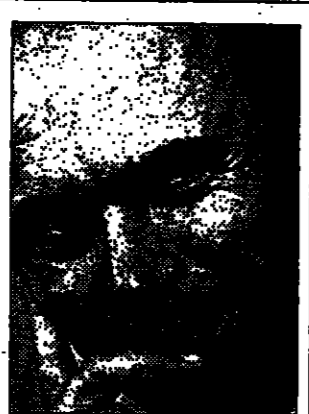
After talks with Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, he said there would be continuing efforts to solve what he termed the "serious problem without making difficulties for our Greek partners". Mr Hurd, who arrived here after a visit to Ankara in Turkey, said it was "highly desirable" to reach an agreement on the issue but said this should not be attempted under the pressure of deadlines.

Mr Mitsotakis has said he would never accept an independent state with Macedonia in its name. The Greeks fear it could be used by the republic's leaders to press territorial claims against Greece's Macedonian region.

The foreign secretary said that priority should be given to ending the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with support for the mediation efforts of the Portuguese president and Lord Carrington. He said it was essential that this was clearly understood in both Belgrade and Zagreb.

On the question of Cyprus, Mr Hurd said that during talks with Turkish leaders in Ankara he had detected a "rather more positive attitude" towards a settlement of the dispute which divides the Mediterranean island between its Greek and Turkish communities.

A British official said Mr Hurd wanted to hear Mr Mitsotakis's views on a "set of ideas" endorsed by the United Nations Security Council for a settlement that would reunite the island as a single state with two federated zones.



Drnovsek is facing an economic recession
Slovenia coalition collapses

BY ROGER BOYCE EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

JANEZ Drnovsek was appointed prime minister of Slovenia yesterday following the collapse of country's centre-right coalition government after a parliamentary vote of no confidence. The government of Ljudevit Peterle, a Christian Democrat, had faced popular discontent over the recession and its muddled approach to market reforms.

Slovenia had seemed the most likely of Yugoslavia's breakaway republics to make a success of independence. It had no Serbian minority was once the most prosperous and Western-orientated of the Yugoslav republics. It declared independence last June and for ten days fought off the Yugoslav army which then turned to Croatia.

But the warfare has deprived Slovenia of its traditional Yugoslav markets, and its industry has found it hard to compete in the West. Unemployment has more than doubled, industrial production has slumped and inflation is rising.

The Christian Democrats had wanted a tough programme of market reforms. Mr Peterle himself seemed more interested in anchoring Roman Catholic values and driving communism out of Slovene society than in reforming industry.

BELGRADE NOTEBOOK by Anne McElvoy

Serbs serve up a bitter repast

The invitation to dinner was sudden and discreet, the venue, a draughty villa in the hills above Belgrade, was grandiose in that dismal Balkan way which means that even in the poshest buildings, some of the chandelier bulbs will be missing.

The foreign minister, his aide explained, was anxious to discuss Serbia's pending isolation from the world community with foreign journalists and dispel some misunderstandings. Vladislav Jovanovic, former ambassador to London and Turkey, is polite and fluent in several languages — the acceptable face of a charmless regime.

It was a carefully-timed public relations exercise, part of the schizophrenic foreign policy which Serbia is pursuing in the wake of the ultimatum from the United States, Europe and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe that it must stop its involvement in the Bosnian conflict by the end of the month or face international isolation.

State television talks of "international media genocide" and warns Serbs that they must battle for their dignity "against the whole world it needs be". So there we were, downing wine with the label Yugoslav Riesling prominently displayed, and being told that the country's problems sprang from the fact that the CSCE was not in line with its own commitments and that Europe had "lost the European spirit".

We almost thought he was going to accuse America of being un-American, but he ventured instead that Washington's new hard-line was due to the fact that the US intended to attack Libya soon and, not wanting to be called anti-Islam, had decided to create a balance by helping the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Serbia, Mr Jovanovic ex-

plained, saw its role as being a factor of stability in the Balkans, which set us all wondering how it would be behaving if it wanted to contribute to instability. It was an agreeable, urbane and totally pointless evening. If there was the slightest frisson of discomfort, it came when the jovial host instructed his guests to "attack the soup". It seemed like rather unfortunate wording in the circumstances.

There are not many tourists or even businessmen left in Belgrade these days and even the grand Hyatt hotel, once an oasis of sophistication, has a tomb-like feel about it. Those of us still resident watch others checking out with the pang of discomfort that Thomas Mann's hero Aschenbach must have felt staying behind in cholera-ridden Venice in *Death in Venice*.

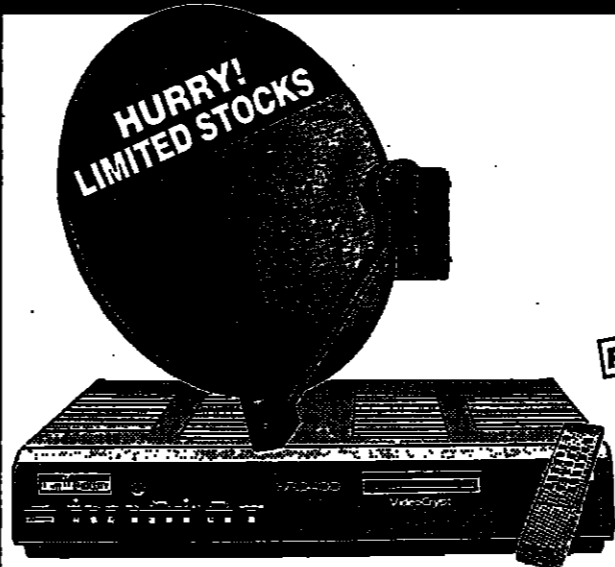
The city's monthly guide has had to turn its self recommendation on the few visitors it has: the blue-helmeted UN troops. The peacekeepers are promised that Belgrade's beauties "have shaken off their coats and stepped into the streets and squares seductively provoking desire and sighs of admiration."

After a stroll through the nervous, dusty streets of a city on the verge of international pariahdom, its social life crippled by fear of the call-up and hyper-inflation, the peacekeepers will of course be in a position to appreciate for themselves "that the citizens of Belgrade are open to life and its joys so much that they are really incapable of doing harm to anyone."

All visitors need to leave behind, the tourist authority adds, are any second thoughts or prejudices they may have garnered from the western media. It concludes improbably: "Your stay in this city may turn out to be the best time in your life: you never know."

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On the 30th April, Britain's biggest heavyweight hope, Lennox Lewis, fights Derek Williams at the Royal Albert Hall. At stake are the British, European and Commonwealth titles. If Lewis wins, he's almost certain to be in line for a crack at the World Heavyweight title before the year ends.

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De Klerk seeks poll for ruling council

BY GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT de Klerk has proposed the general election of a multiparty executive to carry out the functions of head of state and government in the initial phase of multiracial democracy.

Addressing parliament yesterday, Mr de Klerk modified his earlier plan for a rotating presidency drawn by consensus from the main parties. Direct elections to the council

of three to five members would identify leaders with proven support, he said.

Every party would be able to nominate one candidate for election on the basis of one-person one-vote. The chairmanship would rotate twice yearly with the incumbent fulfilling the ceremonial functions of head of state.

In a broad review of government policy, Mr de Klerk

said there had been a sharp reduction in covert activities by the state security apparatus since 1990, to the point where the National Intelligence Service, the police and the armed forces had terminated all secret projects.

Mr de Klerk did not propose a date for the election, but said it could precede a universal franchise vote for a parliament to replace the apartheid-based white, Asian and Coloured chambers. "This proposal makes it possible... to find a way to quickly and expeditiously and effectively let the people of South Africa decide who are the core of leaders that they want... to stand in the lead of the process of further change," he said.

Mr de Klerk said the proposal would be put before the multiparty Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), which is negotiating a transition from white rule. The proposal reverses his earlier insistence on an executive appointed by parties on the basis of an all-race vote for an interim parliament.

It could go some way to meet demands by the African National Congress and Nelson Mandela, its president, for a share of executive power at an early stage of the transition. But the ANC has long said a multiparty interim government should be appointed by the parties at Codesa and not elected.

Police convicted of Inkatha murders

BY GAVIN BELL

FIVE South African policemen have been convicted of mass murder in a trial which produced evidence of police involvement in violence-ravaging black communities.

Mr Justice Andrew Wilson, in the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg, yesterday found a white captain and four black colleagues guilty of murdering 11 people, including women and children, at a funeral vigil in Natal in December, 1988. Two white officers were acquitted.

In a bizarre twist, the court heard that the attack ordered by Captain Brian Mitchell, a station commander, had gone wrong. Instead of targeting the home of a sympathiser of the African National

Congress, the constables had shot supporters of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party.

Mitchell said he regarded himself as a soldier on the side of the government in a civil war. He sympathised with Inkatha because he did not see it as part of the "revolutionary onslaught". A local Inkatha leader testified that when he had asked Mitchell for help in tackling political problems, he was told it was pointless arresting anti-Inkatha activists because they would be set free, and that it was better they be killed.

The judge criticised other officers instructed to investigate the case. They were either incompetent or not interested, he said.



The long lunch: two policemen linger over their first hamburgers in the 700-seat McDonald's restaurant that opened in Peking yesterday. A Big Mac costs 85 pence, 5 per cent of the average monthly salary

Big Macs tickle Peking palates

Capitalist culture imported from the West is going down well in one of the last bastions of communism, writes Catherine Sampson from Peking

FEW of the Peking crowd who waited in the blustery wind for the opening of the world's biggest McDonald's yesterday had ever tasted a hamburger before, but most were convinced that given its American origins it had to be good.

"I started out at three this morning and got here at four. It was freezing cold," said Dong Jie, a student at Peking University, waving a paper McDonald's flag and sporting a McDonald's hat. He intended to eat a Big Mac instead of his usual breakfast of fried pancakes.

As the doors opened, young and old pushed to get in, falling over each other and the barriers to get into the haven of American efficiency and cleanliness. After the initial crush, there was room for all. With a floor space of 28,000 square ft, more than 700 seats, and a staff of 900, Peking McDonald's beats even Moscow. McDonald's executives looked on happily as hundreds tucked into ham-

burgers, chips, ice cream, Coke and apple pie... and that was just for breakfast.

Most Chinese usually prefer pork or chicken to beef, and there were a few uncertain faces. Reactions varied from the polite "very nice" through "so-so" — to the downright appalled. Many customers peeled off the bun, the better to inspect what lurked inside. One man, unsure of how to tackle the burger, tried unsuccessfully to spear it with his drinking straw.

At 8 yuan 50 for a Big Mac (about 90 pence), prices in Peking are slightly higher than in Hong Kong, but with the increasing prosperity of the urban population, few people complained. More than 20,000 people answered advertise-

ments to work at McDonald's. Employees earn up to 400 yuan a month: twice the average wage of a worker in a state factory. They work flat out in a way they have never experienced in China's state sector. If they do not come up to scratch, they can be fired. If they look promising, they might be rewarded with a two-week stay at Hamburger University in Illinois.

Training posters in the staff room advise employees to "wear a happy smile and forget unhappy thoughts". Indeed, everyone involved seems to have become cheerfully amnesiac about the killings which occurred less than three years ago when the army opened fire on pro-democracy demonstrators. The restaurant is

just a few minutes' walk from Tiananmen Square. Noel Kaplan, the company's senior vice-president for Asia, remarked: "You have to be where the people are, and good things and bad things are going to happen in your area."

Peking is not a newcomer to foreign brandnames in the way that Moscow was. It already has Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, Benetton and Stefanel. There is no agonising here about whether a communist country should allow such capitalists as these to set up shop in earnest.

For the communist city government, which owns a half share, McDonald's will be like the goose which laid golden eggs. No wonder then that the Chinese side has given its blessing to a McDonald's logo which shows McDonald's golden arches rising above the Tiananmen rostrum, where Mao Tse-tung declared the founding of the communist republic.

Illness forces resignation of Burma's junta leader

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

GENERAL Saw Maung, the head of Burma's military junta, has resigned for health reasons, according to Rangoon radio. He has been replaced by General Than Shwe, deputy chairman and army commander.

The increasingly eccentric behaviour of Saw Maung, 63, who led the group of military officers who seized power in 1988, had fuelled rumours that he had suffered a nervous breakdown or some other mental illness. Many of his speeches were almost incoherent.

This was long denied by the junta, but yesterday the radio said that "owing to heavy responsibilities undertaken continuously by Senior General Saw Maung, his health failed, necessitating a complete rest as advised by his doctors". He had already given up his posts of foreign minister and defence minister to colleagues.

It is unclear whether his retirement will precipitate any change in the balance of power or the junta's policies. Khin Nyunt, the chief of military intelligence who signed the broadcast statement, has long been seen as the key figure in setting policy. There may now be a struggle for power and a possible softening of some hardline human

rights policies. Than Shwe joined the army in 1953, and was steadily promoted, becoming a lieutenant-general in 1985. He is said to be feared by his subordinates.

The junta came to power by crushing the uprising for democracy in September 1988. Troops shot dead thousands of demonstrators and many thousands more have been arrested in the past three years, including Aung San Sun Kyi, the main opposition leader who has been under house arrest since 1989.

She won the Nobel peace prize last year, and the publicity over her continued detention has embarrassed the junta severely. Promises to

respect the results of the election have been broken, and many who won parliamentary seats have been arrested.

The change of leadership also coincides with a campaign to drive out Muslims from the border regions with Bangladesh and to storm the Karen rebel strongholds in the east of the country. Both campaigns have led to sharply worsened relations with Bangladesh and Thailand. The United Nations has persuaded the junta to allow back some of the thousands of Muslims who fled into Bangladesh.

The changes come as Burma withdraws its two senior military attaches in Europe from London and Bonn, in response to the European Community's decision to withdraw military attaches from Rangoon as a protest against Burma's human rights policy.

Dissident Burmese sources in London said that Colonel Tin Oo left on Wednesday. The remaining five military staff have been reclassified as members of the foreign service, with a substantial sum of money and two Western cars for their use. Dissidents fear that they will be as active as ever in trying to spy on the Burmese community in Britain.



Saw Maung: rumours of a breakdown

Aga Khan wins back property

Uganda has agreed to hand back property worth millions of pounds to the Aga Khan, 20 years after it was confiscated by the dictator Idi Amin. The government said the handover of property, which includes religious buildings and schools and medical, industrial and commercial buildings, was agreed after talks between the Aga Khan and President Museveni of Uganda.

Turgut Ozal, the Turkish president, is to have surgery in the United States to remove a non-malignant tumour from his prostate gland, the Anatolian news agency reported.

King Juan Carlos of Spain has presented the Spanish writer Francisco Ayala with the 1991 Cervantes Prize for literature, the Spanish-speaking world's top literary award.

Nicu Ceausescu, the convicted son of Romania's late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, told a Bucharest military court he is dropping an earlier request to be released from jail on grounds of illness.

Ray, doyen of Indian cinema, dies at 70

Delhi: Satyajit Ray, India's best known film director, died yesterday in a Calcutta nursing home (Coomi Kapoor writes). Ray, 70, had been in hospital since January for respiratory ailments and a cardiac problem. The state government in West Bengal, his home state, announced a public day of mourning today.

This year Ray won an Oscar for lifetime achievement and became the first artist to be awarded the highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, by the Indian government. In 1989 President Mitterrand of France decorated him with the Légion d'Honneur. Mr Ray had been acclaimed in Europe from his first film, *Pather Panchali* (The Long Road), which won an award at the Cannes film festival in 1956.

Obituary, page 13

Quake hits US

Los Angeles: A powerful earthquake registering 6.1 on the Richter scale shook Los Angeles but it caused only minor damage across a wide area. Dozens of buildings were damaged and power supplies cut. At least 15 people were injured. (Reuters)

Talks spurned

Harare: Herman Cohen, the American assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, deplored the failure of Afonso Dhlakama, leader of Mozambican rebels, to respond to his requests for a meeting on the plight of famine victims. The US has promised relief aid.

Plot uncovered

Manila: The Philippines armed forces confirmed that military rebels were plotting to disrupt the May 11 presidential elections. Officials emphasised that it was not a coup attempt as the rebels had no resources to challenge government forces.

Voters riot

Sydney: Police fired bullets and tear gas to quell an election riot involving 10,000 people in the provincial capital of Mendi in Papua New Guinea. Two people were taken to hospital with bullet wounds and a third with arrow wounds. (Reuters)

Disease kills

Sydney: Three men have died and at least 13 others have been infected with Legionnaires' Disease in New South Wales. The source of the illness is unknown. (Reuters)

Official freed

Geneva: Iraqis freed a United Nations official three days after he was arrested in Kurdistan. The UN said harassment by Iraqi soldiers had increased. (AFP)

Japanese fined

Tokyo: Japan Aviation Electronics was fined £21,000 and four former employees were given suspended jail sentences for exporting missile parts to Iran. (Reuters)

Man executed

Huntsville: The state of Texas has executed Billy Wayne White by lethal injection, the fifth this year. White had been on death row for more than 14 years. (Reuters)

Sailors to hang

Suez: An Egyptian court sentenced six Greek sailors to hang, including three still at large, for smuggling into Egypt six tons of hashish hidden in car tyres. (AP)

Puma shot

Vancouver: A Canadian trapper shot dead a puma in his home after the animal chased his dog into the house.

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Tales of the Mob hound New York's jailer

The city's new head of prisons may be the daughter of a man suspected of being a hit man for Al Capone, James Bone writes

LAW enforcement officers battling the Mob in New Jersey were horrified to read this week that the new head of New York City's prison system was the daughter of a reputed captain in the Lucchese crime family who was once suspected of being a hitman for Al Capone.

Catherine Abate took over on Monday as New York City's Corrections Commissioner, responsible for 22,000 inmates, after serving for the last two years as head of the city's probation department. The scandal has embarrassed the administration of David Dinkins, the mayor, and apparently Ms Abate herself and has given a new meaning to the expression "the American dream".

Now 39, Joseph Abate reportedly rose from being a street tough to a high-rank-

ing member of the Lucchese organisation. According to a 1978 report in *The Bergen Record*, a New Jersey newspaper, Abate was arrested in Chicago in 1923 and gave as his home address a headquarters for the notorious gangster Al Capone. The paper quoted a police report as saying: "It is strongly suspected that Abate had been a hitman for Al Capone."

The *Record* said Abate became a "sleeper" after being charged in 1939 with dealing in bootleg alcohol and was no longer active in organised crime although he fraternised with gangsters. But his

name reappeared in 1985, when *The New York Times* quoted investigators describing him as a mafia "underboss".

Authorities in New Jersey now say that in the 1980s Abate was regarded as one of the most important Lucchese family figures in the area around Atlantic City, the gambling resort on the New Jersey shore. At one time, they say, he was the consigliere, or counsellor, to the entire family. Police believe he remained active in the Lucchese organisation, serving as a liaison officer with other families until 1989.

Ms Abate has described the allegations about her father as "ridiculous". She said he was suffering from senility and was confined to his home in a suburb of Atlantic City by illness.

"There is no way I can even approach him to cite these allegations," she told *The New York Times*. "They have to be completely false. What are they based on? Are they saying he has associations. That's not the man I know." A lawyer by training, Ms Abate's reputation has never been questioned in 20 years of public service. She worked for the New York City Legal Aid Society, the New York State Crime Victims Board and Division of Human Rights and the Probation Department before her present appointment. A spokesman for Mayor

Dinkins, who appointed her to the high-profile prisons post, said all job applicants had to identify their parents to verify their identity but that their parents were not investigated.

"We hold to the simple, but fundamental, principle that a person should be judged only by his or her own actions, not by the actions, alleged or real, of those to whom they are related," he said.

Washington: Marion Barry, Washington's former mayor, was released from a federal prison yesterday after completing a six-month term for cocaine possession. The mayor for life, as he is known by his supporters, has already suggested that he may stand for the city council in this year's elections, to the horror of his successor, Sharon Pratt Kelly.

Itchy symbol of a bygone age

Wigs and gowns are absurd dress for today's lawyers, says David Pannick

Next Tuesday, on the first day of the new legal term, the Judges of the Commercial Court will vote on whether to abolish the wearing of wigs in their court. If, as expected, they accept the submissions made by the Commercial Bar Association in favour of reform, it is very likely that the rest of the High Court will follow their example.

Alexander Herzen, visiting an English court for the first time in 1853, was struck by the comicality of the "medieval" scene of a judge "wearing a fur coat and something like a woman's dressing gown". Wigs and gowns still provide entertainment for tourists enjoying our quaint legal pageant. Lawyers would, no doubt, happily continue to make the sacrifice of putting on their wigs and gowns in the interests of the tourism, but for the feeling that dressing up for the occasion reduces the ability of the legal system to promote justice.

It is increasingly difficult for judges and lawyers to convince their customers that they understand present day concerns when the legal profession looks as if it has just stepped out of the 18th century.

The protective headgear of the lawyer contributes to legal pomposity and lay suspicion. What Anthony Trollope condemned as "the paraphernalia of the horsehair wig" encourages the erroneous belief — in lawyers and non-lawyers alike — that the law is a foreign language which can be spoken only by experts. The result is that judges, lawyers and the legal system suffer from the dual afflictions of unmerited criticism and undeserved praise.

The wig is a particular burden for barristers, who are now expected to compete with solicitors for legal business. In seeking to persuade potential clients, domestic and foreign, that the Bar can provide a service attuned to commercial and social needs at the end of the 20th century, barristers are handicapped by working clothes which give the impression that they are living in an earlier age.

Legal dress further hinders the effective performance of the work of the courts by increasing the unease felt by witnesses required to give evidence in the theatrical atmosphere of a trial. As Charles Dickens observed in *The Old Curiosity Shop*, "life in a wig is to a large class of people much more terrifying and impressive than life with its own head of hair".

The case for retaining wigs and gowns is that the custom enhances the dignity of a serious occasion, and so encourages respect for those who are charged with the responsibility of administering justice. But it would be a sad reflection on the quality of our lawyers and judges if respect for judicial proceedings really depended on the wearing of horsehair.

Nor is such a theory credible. Those who defend the retention of

special court attire have to acknowledge that lawyers do not dress up when dispensing justice in tribunals, in Magistrates' Courts, or in the many High Court cases heard in private. The Law Lords, sitting in the highest court in the land, do not wear wigs or gowns. All of these proceedings attain the requisite degree of dignity and majesty.

Indeed, it is well established that judges may make orders in any circumstances, robed or undressed. Vice-Chancellor Shadwell is said to have granted an injunction during the 1840s while bathing in the Thames. In the 1890s, Baron Huddleston addressed a jury from his bed, when afflicted by an attack of gout.

The prosaic historical reason why lawyers dress up was given by Lord Justice MacKinnon in an article published in *Law Quarterly Review* in 1940. The wearing of wigs was a fashion that was once universal among gentlemen and was abandoned by all except bishops, barristers and judges towards the end of the 18th century.

"Bishops, with the permission of William IV, gave them up in 1832; judges and barristers retain them still." There are many impediments to justice in our legal system, including the delays and the complexity of the law, and the cost. Abolition of wigs and gowns would not, of itself, take us into a brave new legal world. But it would rightly be perceived by the public as an important symbol of the lawyer's commitment to reform the legal system to remove anachronisms which inhibit the promotion of justice. Where our legal system needs reform, it has to struggle to overcome the English lawyer's reverence for the doctrine of precedent. We have done it before, so we will continue to do it. The wearing of wigs and gowns in court has no other justification.

Ever-increasing numbers of judges and lawyers are eager to lay down their wigs and gowns. Many of them are concerned about the adverse impact that court dress has on the reputation and performance of the legal system. Some of us have experienced the true absurdity of appearing, dressed in national costume, in the European Court of Justice and attempting to understand a question from a judge of another EC state in a translation through headphones balanced on a barrister's wig. A few radicals are simply unwilling to spend much more of their working life scratching a head made itchy by horsehair.

All members of this coalition hope the Commercial Court judges will lead the march away from the robing rooms to a safe distance where liberated lawyers can burn the symbol of a bygone legal age.

The author is a practising barrister. His book *Advocates* was published yesterday (OUP, £15).



Fashionable headgear of the 18th century

Mary Ann Sieghart finds that owning a Rolls is not the status symbol it once was

King of the road?

Live happily, live hidden — *vive heureux, vive caché* — is the maxim the moneyed French follow as they drive home in their humdrum cars. The British, never having experienced a social upheaval to match the French revolution, were more comfortable flaunting their wealth. But the decline of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars may signal more than a recession. Has the car become too ostentatious a status symbol?

Last year, Rolls-Royce sales in Britain halved. Of course, the economy is a factor — what company chairman would dare take delivery of a new Rolls as he was laying off workers? — but some people have shed the Rolls for good. The Foreign Office is selling off its fleet; the chairman of ICI now uses a Daimler, and since the Sixties even editors of *The Times* have broken with the old tradition.

At the back of the mind is the feeling that these days a Rolls is just a little bit, well, flash. The Queen may still have five, but she is allowed to be ostentatious.

and anyway, no envious member of the public could get near her metalwork with a 10p coin. Otherwise, the Rolls is more likely to be seen at Walthamstow Greyhound Stadium or in front of an Arab-owned house in Mayfair than parked in the drive of a stately home.

Today's aristocrats are more at home with a solidly built estate car or Range Rover in the country, perhaps a Jaguar in town, although Mercedes and BMWs, Toyotas and Mazdas are just as common. A generation ago, they might have felt uncomfortable buying German or Japanese. Now even the Princess of Wales has succumbed to a Mercedes.

Viscount Ridley, to whom the Queen yesterday awarded the Order of the Garter, drives a modest four-wheel-drive Fiat Panda. Even the Duke of Westminster, whose ancestor sent a fleet of

armour-plated Rolls to the Middle East when he raised a regiment there during the first world war, drives an Aston Martin Lagonda and a Mercedes.

His status symbol is a helicopter (secondhand, he protests). What gives him most pleasure is sailing over a 15-mile tailback at the Hanger Lane gyratory system in West London. There's the rub. With congested roads and a shortage of parking, a Rolls is hardly more fun than any other car. Traffic jams are the ultimate democracy.

If anything, a Rolls is now more trouble than it is worth. People seem more envious of ostentatious wealth than they used to be. Even middle-range cars can be vandalised if they are parked overnight on the street. Rolls drivers tend to produce the same reaction as women wearing fur coats: outright hostility.

The newly rich, perhaps, do not mind. An East End boy who becomes a pop star or a champion boxer may be delighted to provoke a reaction of envy mixed with admiration. But in Britain the envy is now uppermost. Not so long ago, admiration won. When Lady Docker drove her gold-plated Daimler with zebra-skin seats, despite the austerity of those post-war, ration-book years, she got away with it. She revelled in ostentation, and the public revelled, vicariously, in her.

Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Monaco, havens for self-made men and women, are now the natural homes of the Rolls. Hong Kong has more Rolls-Royces per square mile than any other country, but Monaco has more per head of population: one for every 65 inhabitants, compared with one for every 170 million in China. In Hollywood, there are more

than 8,500 Rolls in the Beverly Hills area alone. There people enjoy their money and are less inclined to envy others' wealth. Rolls don't get scratched in California.

So what counts as a status symbol in Britain these days? Only a fool would buy a Rolex watch, a Gucci bag or Louis Vuitton luggage: fakes have so devalued the currency. A yacht does not go down badly, and an Impressionist painting will still impress, though flashy gems do not. Anyone who has inherited family jewellery tends to keep it safely locked up in the bank.

Houses and land are still the best status symbols, because the supply of the right kind is so limited. A personal island, a Scottish castle or above all a stately home, are the most sought-after possessions. But, of course, the ultimate status symbols in Britain's snobbish society cannot be bought. They can only be inherited: a title, complete with ancestral portraits in the ancestral home. No need for a Rolls in the drive.

Soldiering on in a new era

Highly-trained, versatile and mobile forces are Britain's best contribution to international order, argues Michael Howard



Cavalry regiment in action in India: protecting the Empire was what the army was for until 1939

With the end of the Cold War and the growing demand for a "peace dividend", the question is once more insistently being asked: "What is the army for?" The Ministry of Defence usually replies with a kind of laundry list of "commitments" including Belize, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, the Falklands, Belfast and Nato — legacies from a past either distant or recent, all demanding money and men. But this is to answer a different question — "What is the army doing?" The question "What is it for?" probes deeper. None of these commitments is necessarily permanent. If they ceased to exist, would we need an army at all?

Three hundred years ago, in 1689, our forefathers answered this question with a resounding no: a standing army in time of peace was not only unnecessary, but dangerous, and its rationale had to be carefully examined in parliament once a year. But there always seemed good reason for preserving at least a few regiments. Ireland, effectively hostile territory, had to be garrisoned against a Stuart restoration. There was already a sprinkling of colonial settlements or trading posts that needed protection.

Furthermore, it was grudgingly conceded, King William and his successors needed help in maintaining a balance of power on the continent, the overthrow of which would seriously threaten the Protestant succession. This commitment to the continent was always unpopular and tolerated only in emergencies. After each intervention, whether against Louis XIV or Louis XV, Napoleon or Kaiser Wilhelm, the army was once more reduced to the minimal size needed to fulfil what had, by the dawn of this century, come to be seen as its primary role: the defence and policing of the British Empire. That was what the army was for, and that was what it was seen to be for until the beginning of 1939. Then the Chamberlain government belatedly woke up and

realised that the survival of Britain itself was at stake, and that no allies could help us unless we once again made a massive land contribution to the common cause.

The army itself liked its traditional role, which kept it small, dabbled and professional, and provided an agreeable lifestyle for officers from the landed classes who were increasingly ill at ease in an industrialised and democratic Britain. Regiments were self-contained families, equally at home in Aldershot, Egypt or India. Large-scale war was disruptive and unwelcome, and it took the army years to adjust to it.

But for the onset of the Cold War, the army would have been happy to return to "real soldiering" after 1945. As it was, campaigning in Kenya, Cyprus, Malaya and Borneo enabled it to exercise traditional skills, and provided welcome respite from the

boredom of the Watch on the Rhine. National Service was sloughed off with relief as a tedious and unnecessary burden. Field Marshal Montgomery was probably the last British commander who thought of the army as "the nation in arms". With the possible exception of Douglas Haig, he was also probably the first.

But in the 1950s and 1960s, the army worked itself out of its traditional job, and by the 1970s there was no empire to police. The triad of Aldershot, Egypt and India had been replaced by the smaller, drabber circuit of Aldershot, Belfast and Lüneburg Heath. In any case, soldiers were now family men with children who needed schools, and wives who disliked moving. Officers needed technical and administrative skills, the learning of which left

them all too little time to spend with their regiments. Worst of all, their circuit now extended to a fourth, still drabber posting: the Ministry of Defence in London, where a real war had to be fought against their sister services and the common foe, the Treasury.

As a result, the army now offers few of its traditional rewards. Young men reluctant to settle down immediately to office jobs may still pass their salad days in a regiment, but only as a prelude to more lucrative, if more sedentary careers. To persevere into higher ranks — which are progressively less glamorous and in every sense less rewarding — demands ambition as well as exceptional skills.

Still, the army has adjusted to new circumstances as well as could be expected. The clamour for the preservation of ancient regiments has come mainly, as always, from retired officers with golden memo-

ries rather than their tough and increasingly classic successors, who have the responsibility for reshaping the army for its new tasks.

These successors have created a versatile and highly professional body, rather better equipped to deal with changing circumstances than most others. It is true that a generation of senior officers has been trained to regard the conduct of *la grande guerre* as their primary responsibility, and ironic that a course has only recently been established at Camberley to teach them how to do it.

But the tasks which today confront the army are not unlike those which it was brought into being to undertake 300 years ago. There is still, tragically, Ireland. There is a sprinkling of overseas settlements — about as many as there were in 1689. And there is the need to contribute to the stability and cohesion of our continental neighbours — not now by sustaining a traditional "balance of power", but by contributing to a new kind of "security community", the limits of which have still to be determined.

Maintaining the security of this wider Europe has replaced the defence of the UK itself as the prime role of our armed forces, and the army in particular. When that security is threatened by disorder elsewhere in the world, as in the Gulf, our capacity to contribute to settlements will determine the degree of influence we can exercise afterwards, and this is the fundamental reason for maintaining an army of respectable size. In the last resort, well-trained, mobile and versatile armed forces remain the most effective contribution that a medium-sized power like Britain can make to an international community still groping its way towards maintaining stability within our own community and restoring it outside. In expectation of our allies, whenever our common interests require it. That, today, is what the army is for.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Disturbing the people you suddenly find yourself having something in common with. Apart from anything else, it can ruin your syntax. Who would have guessed, when I awoke this morning, that within twenty minutes I should have become all but blood-brother to Mr Hilton Cubitt, scion of Ridding Thorpe Manor, Norfolk?

If you do not instantly recall the name, permit me to remind you that he was a tall, ruddy, clean-shaven gentleman whose clear eyes and florid cheeks told of a life led far from the fogs of Baker Street. Got him now? Yes, indeed, the cove who turned up at 221 b cried: "Well, Mr Holmes, what do you make of these?" and tossed a drawing on the cluttered desk which encouraged Watson not only to entitle this particular paper *The Dancing Men*, but also to reproduce the sketch itself, a Lowryesque number depicting a chorus line of high-kicking matchsticks.

These, when Holmes had made of them what we had rather fancied he might be revealed to be a code concerning an eternal triangle in which Hilton Cubitt, the scion on the hypotenuse, ended up drilled through the heart, leaving the other two sides faring hardly better, his rival Abe Slaney banged up for good in the Norwich slammer for doing the drilling, and the hapless Mrs Cubitt condemned to a life of filling the parish poor with soup.

How very different, you murmur, from the home life of our

own dear Cricklewood squirrel Oh, really? What I murmur is a "trifling monograph upon the subject in which I analyse one hundred and sixty separate ciphers". Try to locate this, you will soon find it is no use grabbing the Yellow Pages and saying, "Hello, sorry, it's J.R. Hartley again, you haven't by any chance got that monograph by S. Holmes on...?"

I went down this morning to collect the post, because I had heard the gate squeak, but when the post did not come through the letter-box, I opened the door, to find Jag the postman gazing at the gate's brick pier. Seeing me, he beckoned and I joined him, so that both of us could stare at the rough chalk drawing of a little man with, beneath it, three lines of flowing non-European text. Jag, who is Kashmiri, said: "Very odd, I think this writing is Demala." I asked him what Demala was, and when he said it was the language of the Tamils, I asked him what the words meant, and he said he didn't speak it, he just recognised it, which I suppose comes with being a postman, but he said the man who ran the Atlanta supermarket was Sing-halese, and he would know.

I said I didn't think it was worth troubling him. It was probably just some passing kid, but Jag pointed out that the little man had an axe in his hand, and if you saw it in Kashmir, it would frighten the life out of you, because it meant a death threat.

Jag moved on, and I paused for thought. You did not want a Tamil contract out against you, I had heard about the Tigers, they did not much about it. I wondered if I might have inadvertently got on the wrong side of one, a meter-maid, a shop assistant, you never know, so I carefully copied down the drawing and the squiggles and I drove to Atlanta, and the owner asked who'd said it was Demala, and I said Jag, and he said Demala his eye, it was some kind of A-fable, look at these newspapers, we stock and I did, and it was very similar, and I thought: have I sworn at any PLO meter-maid in the past few days, have I had a barney with any Hezbollah shop-assistants? Then Mrs Atlanta came out from behind the till and said that in Sri Lanka the axe-in-hand routine wasn't a death-threat, it was just a curse, and I said fine, but what is it in Baghdad, and she shrugged and went back behind the till.

The Hampstead desk-servant said it looked to him like trampism, he'd done a stint in Suffolk where tramps drew stuff on gates to tip the wink to colleagues about hot food, rot-wellers, compliant chateaux and so forth, and I said what do they mean when they stick an axe in a little man's head, and he said he'd never learned to read it, I said what's my best course of action, and he said why not wash it off the wall, so I did. I couldn't help thinking, mind, that the passing of Sherlock Holmes had left a bit of a gap.

Once a Serb

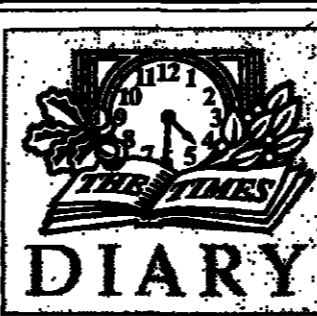
AS YET ANOTHER ceasefire in Bosnia was being negotiated last night, Crown Prince Alexander, pretender to the Yugoslavian throne and a vocal and persistent champion of a united Yugoslavia did a volte face by declaring himself Serbian and proud of it.

From the start of the interecine conflict until now, Alexander has adopted a non-partisan approach. The crown prince, who was born in a suite in Claridge's, visited his native country for the first time last year and declared: "My mission is one of peace, reconciliation and democracy embracing all the people of this country, regardless of their political beliefs."

His change of tack will shock his supporters in Croatia, Bosnia and elsewhere in the Balkans, but Alexander strongly defended it yesterday. Speaking from his Knightsbridge home, he said that the swift disintegration of the confederation had forced him to rethink his role and revert to "home territory". The Karageorgevich royal house, he says, has always been Serbian. "I think many of my friends in the community, in Croatia and other states fully understand my position," he says.

Understanding, however, is thin on the ground. Most Yugoslavians in London yesterday regarded the move as utterly cynical, based on a calculation that restoration of the monarchy is more likely under Serbian domination. Many also detected the hand of Sir Tim Bell, former adviser to Margaret Thatcher and the crown prince's public relations adviser.

But Alexander denies Bell's involvement. The fact that all requests for interviews must be filed through Bell's office is, of course, entirely coincidental.



Someone at the Foreign Office hasn't done his homework. The list of new ministerial duties announced this week shows that Douglas Hogg is in charge of relations with the Soviet Union.

Mail preserve

THE Institute of Economic Affairs is safely back in the hands of the Thatcherites. Russell Lewis, a leader writer on the *Daily Mail*, has moved in as acting general director following the departure of Graham Mather amid accusations that the think-tank had strayed from the true path and become too closely allied with John Major's new pragmatism.

Lewis began yesterday by promising a sizzling attack on the size of the borrowing requirement — a subject close to Mrs Thatcher's heart. "We should not be in the position of currying favour with politicians. We agree with Hayek about not worrying about what is politically possible."

Lewis knows, however, that he is only a stop-gap. Lord Harris of High Cross and his fellow directors at the Institute plan to advertise the post next month. Mindful of their charitable status and wishing to avoid the political problems of Mather's tenure, they have already decided that the job will not go to a professional politician.

Order, order

SPECULATION that Mrs Thatcher might become a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the most esteemed order of chivalry in the land, was knocked on the head yesterday when, rubbing salt in her wounds, Edward Heath received the honour.

Lord St John of Fawsley says: "The Order is entirely the Queen's personal choice and it is wonderful that she has singled out Ted, because he has been rather overlooked in the past". But he says Mrs Thatcher should not feel snubbed. She already has the Order of Merit and it is highly unusual to receive both honours.



usual to receive both honours. "But wouldn't it be lovely if how that she has one honour and he has the other they could at last be friends?"

It was all for a good cause: the British Red Cross, to which Hussey has particular reason to feel grateful. "I was very badly wounded in the war," he says. "The Red Cross organised a swap of badly injured prisoners in September 1944 of whom I was one. If it hadn't been for them, I wouldn't be here today."

Hussey lost a leg as a result of his war exploits, though it appeared to have not the slightest adverse effect upon his dancing ability. But impressive as his *Come Dancing* stunt was, he was upstaged by the ubiquitous Jeffrey Archer, who was booked to play the spoons with Nerys Hughes. Having arrived early, he decided to muscle in on the juggling act. While seven newly elected MPs struggled to keep two balls in the air, Archer effortlessly juggled three. "I learnt to juggle when I was 13 for a Scouts competition. I came third. I had a practice beforehand, over the bed so it doesn't matter if you drop them." His spoon-playing was expert, although Archer claims to have been training for that, too. He even took professional advice: "Just knock them together, Jeffrey."

Although friends of the Duchess of York rallied round yesterday, denying reports that she has been stripped of royal privileges and told to use the tradesman's entrance at Buckingham Palace, she is nevertheless well on the way to becoming a non-person. Her publishers are grappling with the problem of whether to remove the *HRH* from the dustjackets of her *Budgie* books, and *ITV* is removing her photograph from the cover of its *Book of the Royal Year*. The Duchess last appeared in public on March 23, and yesterday her whereabouts remained a mystery.

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 24 1992

THE

Where would you rather emigrate game gues, Peru or Morocco, Peru or Burma, Peru, Burma, Burma, Angola or North Korea, on, until by a process of elimination, the world's worst judgment is subjective, instantly half-digested notions of power, freedom and fun.

The United Nations has its with its own equally unscientific world's most desirable places to the list is Canada, closely followed. Can they be serious? Canada, freezing cold all winter, the consist mainly of moose, foreigners are American, and no one will you have not mastered French verbs? Or Japan, where do commuting, bowing, television and singing the company song like something of an endurance.

The two scored highly in "human development report". Development Programme because citizen is not only rich, but well educated and has a decent salary. Next on the list comes Switzerland, Sweden, the USA, Australia, France, The Netherlands for the first time, Britain.

The report is only the third of the result of the energetic new to the agency by William H. C. friend of George Bush, he is admirable catholicity, that domestic product were too dry.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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TIME FOR A CUT

The 41 captains of industry who wrote to *The Times* this week were right. It is time to stop talking about "the end of recession" and to get on with the business of generating economic growth. The economic recovery, like Godot, is unlikely to arrive so long as businessmen, investors and consumers stand around waiting for some spectacular symbol of salvation. Instead, they must get back to their routines of managing, investing, working and shopping. But should the Treasury and the government follow the same self-denying ordinance and stop worrying about the recession? They should not.

Four times in the past 18 months, the Treasury has said that the natural cyclical forces in the economy had run their course and that recovery would follow recession. Four times the Treasury has defied economic theory and common sense by counselling the Chancellor against cuts in interest rates, cuts that had been discounted by the financial markets, were necessary for business investment, and posed no serious danger to sterling's position in the exchange-rate mechanism. Each time — before John Major's autumn statement in November 1990, before the 1991 Budget, during the "green shoots of recovery" Tulipmania last spring, and again in the phoney pre-election campaign in September — the mandarins were wrong.

The needlessly prolonged recession may not have cost John Major the election. But it cost a million people their jobs, tens of thousands of small businesses their livelihoods and the economy vast quantities of investment that should now be improving Britain's ability to sustain a non-inflationary recovery. All these costs are a result of Treasury misjudgment during the recession and the Lawson boom that preceded it. Mr Major has been forgiven by the electorate for the recession. Will he now forgive his officials and let the Treasury repeat its habitual mistake?

The government has had a classic opportunity to cut interest rates, capitalising on the

post-election euphoria in the financial markets and the flood of foreign money into sterling. The Treasury, through the Bank of England, has strongly resisted the speculation on lower rates. Any rate cut would inevitably be small. A half point reduction in base rates, to 10 per cent, would bring British interest rates to within a quarter of a point of Germany's, effectively the ERM floor. With so little leeway apparently available, the Treasury's reluctance to move may seem understandable, but it is wrong.

Economic recovery, as the businessmen who wrote to *The Times* maintained, is a psychological process. Once the recovery is firmly under way, it will accelerate of its own accord. But while the economy is still stagnant and confidence is low, the danger remains that recovery will not last. A modest cut in interest rates now would start the self-sustaining forces of recovery. But if the Treasury waits for signs that the recovery is faltering, a mere half-point cut in interest rates may no longer be enough. To make matters worse, the Treasury may discover that the opportunity for lower interest rates has vanished because of a quirk of the German money supply, a strike by German workers or a personal whim in the Bundesbank.

If this much-vaunted British "recovery" fades, as others have faded over the past year, all the pre-election doubts about ERM membership would quickly re-emerge. The Treasury's hopes of restoring order to the public finances, notably by borrowing, through economic growth would be postponed if not dashed. The government's post-election honeymoon with the financial markets would abruptly end. By being over-cautious now, the Treasury is taking yet more unnecessary risks with the economy, its own finances and the government's spending programme. The mandarins have gambled with the recession for two years and lost every time. Mr Major and his Chancellor have been given a solid vote of confidence by the country. They can surely now assert themselves.

LOCAL IS BEST

The prospect of another invitation to the polls will be greeted by most British voters with a groan. The district elections on May 7, campaigns for which were launched yesterday, could well see the lowest turnout for years. Voters exhausted with politics might feel the time has come for a quiet life. They might also feel that local democracy in Britain has taken such a battering over the past decade that it too can be left to rest in peace.

Time was when local councils had discretion over 60 per cent of their revenue and spending. This is now down to an average of 20 per cent and falling. Having voted back a Tory government, the public might leave it to cap, reorganise, cash-limit and legislate for local government. Why have recourse to local elections when the government no longer really believes in subsidiary tiers of democracy?

One answer is that the case for voting Tory in most local districts is a strong one. The inadequacy of Neil Kinnock's reform of the Labour party was nowhere more on display than in urban local government. It was Labour councils, notably in London and the north-west, that gave Margaret Thatcher the ammunition to clamp down on local revenue and spending. Most have improved in the past five years, but they still believe in the dream of municipal socialism with its huge payrolls and hostility to the private sector.

In presenting the Tory case yesterday the new environment secretary, Michael Howard, used the slogan "better services costing less". The evidence of councils that have come under Tory management is with him. Wandsworth, Derby, Southend compare favourably with Manchester, Lambeth, Camden, and not just because of distortions in grant support. Private tendering, local management of schools, the ending of direct labour teams, the disposal of council estates, charges for extra services are all innovative Tory policies that are anathema to most Labour councils. Ending the prejudiced self-interest of union-dominated councils will be a first duty for the new Labour leader.

All this makes voting Tory in local government sensible. What would make it more sensible would be a sign of readiness on Mr Howard's part to turn over a new leaf in his party's local government policy. One such indicator would be a promise of greater flexibility next year for local finance committees, both on revenue and on capital account. If electors want to spend more on their services, and if the council tax ensures full accountability, let democracy speak. Other European countries do.

Indeed, by shifting the burden of general public spending more onto local taxes, the Treasury might both improve efficiency in local spending and give itself room for fiscal manoeuvre: it has been spending billions of pounds over the past two years purely to relieve high poll taxes. Nothing would do more to discipline left-wing councils than having to impose swing-electorate residential tax increases on their electors. If Labour does well next month, one reason is that Labour voters know they can afford to be loyal without risking higher local taxes, now capped by a Tory Treasury.

The government can anyway afford to be more lateral in its thinking. Releasing local receipts from council house sales, blocked by the Treasury, would revive local construction and begin the long-term renovation or reconstruction of tower block estates. Pressing ahead with tendering and privatisation will diminish union power and help pluralise local politics. Clarifying the roles of districts and counties as "enabling" authorities — rather than crudely abolishing one or other tier — should streamline local government without further eroding its democratic status.

The day of the big-is-beautiful local council, its size determined by its housing stock or its labour force, is over. A new relationship should be forged between local business and political leadership, both in renewing the towns and cities and in planning the countryside. This relationship cannot develop out of the present drift to centralism.

THESE HAPPY ISLES

Where would you rather emigrate to, the old game goes. Peru or Morocco? Morocco, Peru or Burma? Peru, Burma or Angola? Burma, Angola or North Korea... and so on, until by a process of elimination you discover the world's worst country. The judgment is subjective, instant and reflects half-digested notions of poverty, climate, freedom and fun.

The United Nations has now come up with its own equally unscientific table of the world's most desirable places to live. Top of the list is Canada, closely followed by Japan. Can they be serious? Canada, where it is freezing cold all winter, the neighbours consist mainly of moose, foreigners think you are American, and no one will talk to you if you have not mastered French irregular verbs? Or Japan, where close-proximity commuting, bowing, television game shows and singing the company song make daily life something of an endurance test?

The two scored highly in this year's "human development report" of the UN Development Programme because the average citizen is not only rich, but also healthy, well educated and has a decent life expectancy. Next on the list come Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, Australia, France, The Netherlands and, in tenth for the first time, Britain.

The report is only the third of its kind, and is the result of the energetic new style brought to the agency by William H. Draper III. A friend of George Bush, he thought, with admirable catholicity, that statistics of gross domestic product were too dry to calculate

the sum of human happiness. Mr Draper recognises, however, that even the "human development index" says little about the quality of life.

Other tables attempt to quantify a myriad of life's variables: human distress, as measured by homelessness, drug addiction, homicide and road accidents; sexual equality, unemployment, urban crowding, sanitation and virtually everything except landscape, architecture and weather. The report promises that as soon as freedom can be properly measured, it will be included.

The statistics contain much to brag about or gloss over. Britain, for example, has the most readily available contraception in the world, with a prevalence of 83 per cent (of what?) compared to a joyless 1 per cent in Niger, Guinea and Chad. More than twice as many book titles are published in Iceland per head than anywhere else — an astonishing new book for every two people, suggesting that sagas still dominate the long winter nights.

The human development index seems to find life generally more agreeable on islands, especially ones that are small and sparsely populated. Iceland, Cyprus, Trinidad, the Bahamas, Hong Kong, Malta and Singapore are all in the top 40, and Barbados even beats Italy. Africa is still benighted, however, with Guinea offering the grimmest standard of living in the world. As a statistical exercise this is interesting; as a "scientifically" aggregated index it is famous. As all those playing the old game know, Britain in the end always comes out best — at least for the British.

Court conflict over scientific evidence

From the Director of the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory

Sir, Nigel Hawkes's review (*Life & Times*, April 17) of BBC2's *Taking Liberties* made a valuable point: "that convictions made on the basis of scientific findings cannot be secure unless both prosecution and defence have access to the same science".

All of the scientific evidence held by the prosecution must, by law, be given to the defence. This does not apply in the other direction and defence lawyers have no obligation to tell the prosecution about evidence in their possession unless it will be used in court.

The defendant's historic right of silence has now been extended to a point where public funds are used routinely to pay defence scientists to examine exhibits but where the defence team simply files the results away if they are inconvenient. The jury never hears about them.

However, and this is where Nigel Hawkes's comment is important, scientists called by the prosecution are then expected to help the court by providing an expert opinion in circumstances where only part of the admissible evidence has been revealed to them and to the court. This is against the traditions of science. It irks many expert witnesses that the methods of science and the procedures of criminal law in England are in such conflict.

Is this particular extension of the right of silence important to truth and justice? Is it fundamental or is it just a procedural interpretation? Should both prosecution and defence have access to the same science, as Nigel Hawkes says? Should all the expert evidence be brought before the court? What should the guidelines be for using public funds?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN SHEARD,
Director,
Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory,
109 Lambeth Road, SE1.

Women in the wings

From Ms Janet Salmon

Sir, For the Tory party and its nice leader, John Major, it is now back to business as usual. However, apart from the two new cabinet ministers, Mrs Bottomley and Mrs Shephard, only five other women managed to slip through the net in the more than 90 positions of government.

The business leaders who waxed eloquently during the campaign on behalf of their chosen party, using company time and resources, now go back to their companies, where only a tiny percentage of directors are women.

If British women wait for the men to open the doors to politics and business most of us will be drawing our pensions. It is time Britain had a Parliament, judiciary and business leadership which reflected the fact that women are a majority in this country, and that our concerns are not restricted to crèches and the elderly. We should demand to be heard.

Yours sincerely,
JANET SALMON,
20 Amherst Road, Ealing, W13,
April 15.

Labour changes

From Mr Russell Burlingham

Sir, On the question of appropriate names for our political parties (Dr Dorrell's letter, April 14) this member of the Reform Club thinks, and has thought since 1979, that it is the Conservative party that should change its name to "The Reform party". This would allow the Labour party to save its wounds and attempt to improve its prospects by soldiering on as "The Conservative party".

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL BURLINGHAM,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1,
April 15.

1642 and all that

From Mr and Mrs Laurence Fowler

Sir, As we believe that the troublous times in Cambridge and Huntingdon, reported in your supplement on the late Civil War (April 11), are now safely past, we feel free to forward to you the following letter. It seems likely that the late Dr John Barwick, an ardent royalist formerly resident in this city, drafted it as a letter for possible publication in your columns. We hope that it is not now too late.

Sir, In your news paper, *War Times* (December 27, 1642), you write of our silver captured by the traitor Oliver Cromwell ("Cambridge MP hijacks college silver convoy"). The intelligence is in some part an idle rumour for I know that much college silver was indeed brought to his Majesty.

I tell you that although Cromwell was afraid of our Design by some Townsmen here, he and his disorderly Band of

Good and bad marks for teachers

From Mr Michael Crouch

Sir, Your leading article, "Power and protest" (April 21), identifies the teachers as "arguing selfishly". Let us hope that the decision of the National Union of Teachers not to boycott plans for career appraisal is seen as a foundation for further constructive dialogue, rather than just as a victory for the government.

It is worth noting that for any appraisal scheme to work effectively, there are at least two fundamentals, separate from the raw industrial issues of power. These are:

1. The teachers' active co-operation is essential; otherwise any scheme will either founder under the weight of its own paperwork, or become yet another nominal incremental barrier (as is the case in many Australian schools).
2. It follows that an individual teacher's results must be seen in terms of improving the teacher's performance, either by recognition of a job well done, or through providing reinforcement/improvement in areas of weakness. If the latter fails, then that individual should probably not be allowed to continue teaching.

Having obtained such an overall assessment — based on quantifiable standards worked out by both parties — it is then appropriate to match this to the appropriate salary scales and increments. This two-stage approach has worked well for many years, in both commerce and in those Australian schools so enlightened.

Appraisal should not be directed primarily at determining a consequent salary level, or be based in the main on another colleague's judgment (however well intentioned and experienced).

Moreover, any suggestion that appraisal be based in the main on classroom observation is itself a "red herring", except in a training!

Education standards

From Mr Michael Tatham

Sir, Fr Dominic Milroy's letter on educational standards (April 11) fails to address the extent to which classroom teachers, college lecturers, educational advisers and inspectors have seen their task in quasi-political terms — as midwives to a classless and egalitarian society. Thus, without the direct intervention of political theory there has been, to use Fr Milroy's words, "excessive politicisation of educational goals and methods".

It is this long-term imbalance which the government has belatedly set out to remedy. Such things as the publication of examination results,

support role. The main purpose of appraisal is to identify and scrutinise the teacher's results.

Yours etc.,
MICHAEL CROUCH
(Educational management consultant, Melbourne),
c/o 19 Bradborn Street, SW6.

From Councillor K. R. Mitchell

Sir, Teachers enjoy an incremental system of payment. This means every new teacher knows that, for the first ten years of employment, he/she can look forward to an automatic, annual increase in pay as well as an annual increase for inflation. This applies to every teacher, whether good or bad, hard-working or indolent, talented or mediocre. This year's "inflation increase" averaged 7.5 per cent, against a general increase in prices of around 4 per cent.

All teachers are paid on the same scale regardless of short-supply or over-supply. We therefore assume that teachers specialising in mathematics, swimming, geography or environmental studies have an exactly equal value.

If any private-sector employer was saddled with a remuneration straitjacket of this kind, it would soon go out of the country or out of business. Our schools do not enjoy that opportunity. Grant-maintained schools are pinioned within exactly the same straitjacket.

Mr John Patten's undertaking to be tougher than the previous education secretary leads me to hope that he has reform of this nonsensical and unfair system high on his political agenda. Given the recent conference performance of the National Union of Teachers, he would seem to have little to lose.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH R. MITCHELL,
Nell Bridge House,
Adderbury, Oxfordshire.

the protection of A-level standards, the stricter control of non-examinable methods of assessment, the emphasis on the basics of reading and arithmetic in primary schools, and the blending of the national curriculum and GCSE are hardly the stuff of "political factionalism". Indeed if truth is at risk, as it will be, no matter whether from ignorance or the fashionable theories of educational orthodoxy, the government's initiative may be seen as an 11th-hour attempt at resuscitation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TATHAM,
New Barn, Church Farm Barns,
Newton Bromswold,
Rushden, Northamptonshire,
April 12.

British Museum split

From Mr T. G. H. James, FBA

Sir, The correspondence concerning the apparent abuse of the Shaw bequest by the British Museum (letters, April 18) has been widened to include other matters of difficulty which attended the removal of the library departments from the museum.

It is too late to hope that what has happened since the separation can now be reversed. What is important, however, is that the anomalies of holdings should not be considered with resentment, but as offering the possibility of future co-operation. Stripping at one or other of the two institutions should be turned into efforts to ensure that the best aspects of the long union of library and museum should continue for the future by active and generous arrangements for mutual access to holdings.

For more than 200 years the British Museum remained a unique and remarkable combination of departments encompassing the whole of human knowledge and the world's material cultures. Only paintings and certain categories of what are sometimes termed the decorative arts were not generally represented in the museum's holdings. Within the museum overlappings between de-

partments — which were always substantial — were sometimes tiresome, but mostly inconsequential.

Occasionally a little sensible tidying-up took place. So, in the mid-19th century all the Egyptian papyri in the hieratic and demotic scripts were transferred from Manuscripts to Antiquities (which then included Egyptian antiquities), Greek, Latin and Coptic papyri were left in Manuscripts.

Coptic texts, which subsequently formed part of the holdings of the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books, presented a special problem, although they continued to be studied and published by the Egyptologists of the later departments of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities and then Egyptian Antiquities. As for the Greek and Latin papyri, there were always (in those happy days) enough classical scholars in Manuscripts who could as readily deal with the ancient texts on papyrus as they could with the texts of medieval charters.

When the library departments were included in the British Library, I do not think that any consideration was given to the transfer of Greek and Latin papyri to the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities in the British Museum, 1974-88, the subsequent development of the separated institutions, while the con-

Whose control of listed buildings?

From the Chairman of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies

Sir, The allocation of responsibilities to be covered by the new Department of National Heritage raises thorny questions which are a matter of grave concern to this committee, comprised of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the Ancient Monuments Society, the Georgian Group, the Victorian Society, the Civic Trust and the Council for British Archaeology, as well as to others who attend our meetings, such as the Association of Conservation Officers. It deserves the most careful consideration — but understandably the new Secretary of State's remit has to be settled fast.

English Heritage and all its interests and duties are to become Mr David Mellor's responsibility, and it would be ridiculous were it not so. But should his remit include the supervision of listed building control and appeals thereon, as these are often related to planning, which will remain a Department of the Environment responsibility?

The full implications are only now being appreciated. There should be time for consultation, to ensure a sensible decision.

Yours sincerely etc.,
JEREMY BENSON, Chairman,
Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies,
St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4,
April 23.

English invaders

From Dr Gareth Rees

Sir, Gillian Tindall (*Life & Times*, April 18) says that the English invaders of France tend to destroy by their very presence what they have come to seek. She asks what those who are insular and uninterested in France are doing there. Her sentiments have even greater relevance to rural Wales, where colonisation is infinitely more advanced.

M Le Gallou, the Le Pen appendage who apparently believes that the English are slowly rebuilding the Plantagenet empire, may or may not have been influenced by what has befallen *les Gallois*; but not in his worst dreams could he envisage our fate — the destruction of the national language.

Yours faithfully,
GARETH REES,
Gwar Y Geulan,
Llanafan, Dyfed,
April 20.

continuing care of these papyri has not been neglected in the British Library, the presence of these important texts in the British Museum would greatly have enriched the interpretative functions of the Greek and Roman Department, where epigraphy, the study of ancient inscriptions, remains a proper field of research.

There were many tiresome and absurd results of this kind following the removal of the library departments from the British Museum. It happened against the wishes of the museum's trustees, and with the general opposition of the staff on both sides, who fully understood the mutual advantages of having a great library and a great museum within a single institution.

Since the separation, the staffs of library and museum have often continued to work closely in matters of day-to-day business and in the production of joint exhibitions. Such co-operation has been made easy by the continuing existence of most of both institutions in the one Bloomsbury building. Sadly it cannot be expected that this happy liaison will survive the move of the library to St Pancras.

Yours faithfully,
T. G. H. JAMES
(Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities,
British Museum, 1974-88),
14 Turner Close, NW11.

BDs in EL

From the Chairman of the Prayer Book Society

Sir, Mrs Mostyn-Owen (letter, April 20) reminds us of RAs (redundant apostrophes) and the missing apostrophe (MA) among the all too many BDs (bizarre developments) in the EL (English language). Perhaps the BCP (Book of Common Prayer) might help.

The most authentic Prayer Book, bearing the signatures of members of the Convocations, is attached to the Act of Uniformity of 1662. Here are \$44 folio pages, all in one handwriting (with the exception of a very few "last minute" alterations) and representing a fine piece of calligraphy by some unknown hand.

The possessive apostrophe is not once used and "Gods mercy", "St Peters Day" and other examples are perfect examples of Mrs Mostyn-Owen's MA. When it comes to the alterations (by another hand) only then is the bidding to pray for "the whole state of Christ's Church". Only there, and in the consequential alteration of a subsequent rubric, is a possessive apostrophe to be found.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. A. KILMISTER,
Chairman,
The Prayer Book Society,
St James Garlickhythe,
Garlick Hill, EC4.

Never too young

From Mr J. S. W. Gibson

Sir, Nothing new in American toddlers being called "kindergarten students" ("Born to go shopping", April 17). In Victorian census returns (1841-91), children even under the age of one were regularly described as "scholar".

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY GIBSON,
Harts Cottage,
Church Hanborough,
Winey, Oxfordshire.

Feeding time

From Mr Richard A. Roberts-Miller

Sir, Your science editor reports ("Rogue giant panda turns serial sheep killer", April 18) that only in the 1980s was it discovered that pandas eat meat. As a student in the early 1960s I took a holiday job of which the high point was making a delivery of roast chicken to the giant panda at London Zoo. "Chicken and bamboo shoots" was popular with *Ailuropus fulgens* even then.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. ROBERTS-MILLER,
April Cottage, Fredley Park,
Mickleham, nr Dorking, Surrey.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.



ARD Cutts originated the *Teach Yourself* books which today to a thousand or more angling from *Teach Canasta to Teach Swahili*. For many years was responsible for publications at and Stoughton and handled Leslie and his *Saint Peter Pan* and com-ed a short story from author James Hilton before *Goodbye* and Cutts.

OBITUARIES

SATYAJIT RAY



The boy Apu, protagonist of Ray's earliest film, *Pather Panchali*, 1954, the first part of his "Apu trilogy", and, right, the trilogy's creator, who recently received an Oscar in his Calcutta hospital bed

Satyajit Ray, Bengali film director, died yesterday of heart failure in a Calcutta hospital aged 70. He was born in the same city on May 22, 1921.

A MONTH ago Satyajit Ray was awarded an honorary Oscar for a lifetime achievement in the cinema, the only Indian to receive such a prize. He was too ill to receive it and three members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences flew to Calcutta to present him with the award in the hospital where he had been since the beginning of the year.

That Oscar was fully deserved. Ray was one of the great humanists of world cinema, a man who towered above other Indian directors. He chose to work totally apart from India's vast, brash commercial film industry centred on Bombay, staying quietly in his native Bengal where, starting in 1954, he turned out a stream of more than 35 films, mostly low-budget, which encompassed the full range of local society from the rich to the achingly poor.

His warm compassion for people of all kinds, together with his rich sense of their comic and pathetic sides, led him to be compared to Jean Renoir, his wiseful, poetic nostalgia, and his awareness of life's wasted opportunities, brought echoes of Chekhov; and his feeling for the social nuances and hidden tensions of a still puritanical and repressed society led to comparisons with Henry James.

Though deeply sensitive to Bengali culture and spirituality, Ray was a cosmopolitan, much more at ease with Western culture than, say, the great Japanese directors. He was thus able to interpret Indian life and values to Western audiences as vividly and sympathetically as any other artist has ever done. This did not stop local critics being censorious about Ray's more recent films which, they claimed, were insufficiently critical of the society around him. Non-Bengalis were ready to attack him for being too rarified and for presenting an India for overseas consumption.

Ray was fond of describing himself as middle class. He was born into an artistic family — his father was a writer and painter, his grandfather a friend of Rabindranath Tagore. He studied for three years in Tagore's shadow, in the college that the great man had founded at Santiniketan. Tagore was to be a life-long influence. Another early mentor was Renoir who encouraged Ray to start making films when he himself was in Bengal, shooting *The River*.

While earning his living as an illustrator in an advertising agency, Ray spent his Sundays over three years filming *Pather Panchali*, the first part of his celebrated *Apu Trilogy* about Bengal peasant life. The film's gentle simplicity and lyric vision excited the 1956 Cannes Festival where it came as a new voice from a little-known

world. Around the globe it won ten prizes. The two later films followed the boy Apu into manhood and the inevitable Indian struggle for survival.

Another early film, *The Music Room* (1958), was the elegiac portrait of a decaying landowner, neglecting his business and burying himself in music and art; it showed that Ray, despite his Leftish views, could be as sensitive to the dying world of patrician grace as he was to the plight of the peasantry. In his middle period, two poetic masterpieces were *Charulata* (1963) and *Days and Nights in the Forest* (1970). The first, from a story by Tagore set in the 1880s, was a delicate study of an educated woman torn between her neglectful husband and a literary cousin. The language of Indian upper-class life, the sounds and shadows of the household, the gentle regret of desire unfulfilled — all were beautifully conveyed. In *Days and Nights*, Ray took a seemingly trivial tale of four young men from Calcutta, fooling about on a holiday jaunt in the hills, and made of it a serene and perceptive study, both comic and tender, of the transience of happiness and the search for love. The delightful pastoral setting was counterpointed by the theme of the tensions of Indian city life.

Ray was by now being accused by some Indians of neglecting political and urban realities and escaping into rural and historical idylls. Partly in answer to this

he next made a number of films about urban life in Calcutta. *Company Limited* (1970) was a study of India's new managerial ruling class — of an ambitious young man who sells his integrity to advance his career as a factory executive. *The Middleman* (1975), equally acute and ironical, was about a young upper-caste graduate who — like so many — fails to find a proper job and is reduced to the ignominy of touting and pimping for businessmen.

Other notable films of this period looked at some of the social and political problems of India's past. *Distant Thunder* charted the impact on a Bengal village of the great famine of 1943, and also examined the cruelties of the caste system. *The Chess Players* (1977) was Ray's only film to be made not in Bengali but in Hindi and English, and with a relatively large budget; starring Richard Attenborough, it was about the British annexation of Oudh in 1856. Ray carefully avoided passing judgment on the cultured but effete local rulers whose corruption had made the take-over inevitable. But his clear implication was that Indians had only themselves to blame for British colonisations — and this did not endear him to his fellow countrymen. In 1982 came *Ghare Baire* ("Home and the World"), based on a Tagore novel about the Bengal bourgeoisie.

Ray was a majestic 6ft 4in, with handsome patrician features — a kindly man, shy and



modest, lacking in "side" or that species of mere bad temper that so often passes for artistic temperament.

Amazingly versatile (India's Renaissance Man, he was called), he wrote his own scripts, composed the music for his films, even operated the camera. Steeped in literature both of East and West, he was a man who bridged cultures. This often exposed him to the inevitable criticism that he had become too westernised. Indian radicals also disliked the ambivalence which appeared to result from his combining progressive views with a sympathy for traditional Indian values, spiritual and aristocratic. Though he did class himself as a radical, and felt concern for the poor and outcast, yet Ray grew increasingly impatient with doctrinaire Leftism.

He was certainly more highly regarded in the West than in his own country. The Indian film industry resented his refusal to compromise with it. Repeatedly, he refused offers to work in Bombay or Hollywood, believing that his strength lay in staying close to his Bengali roots, where in his early work he was a true neo-realist, much influenced by de Sica and, like him, often using non-professional actors.

His essential quality was his feeling for character, its quirks and oddities as well as its deeper emotions, and his

subtle portrayal of loyalty, humiliation, love and yearning. His constant theme was the tension between change and tradition in modern India, and his method was a gently contemplative style of filmmaking, rich in understatement — "I try," he said, "to capture the half-shades, the hardly audible notes."

He thus appeared a rather old-fashioned and "Laurie" director. Typically, one of his last films *Ganash* (1981) terminated from his apartment in a crumbling Victorian house, was based on Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. For this "bookishness" he was criticised, as he was for the slow pace of his films. But his admirers would reply that the latter reflected the true tempo of Indian life, leisurely, lethargic. The sum of his achievement was that he made the lives of Bengalis into something universal, and was able to project the joys and travails of his native land into the hearts and minds of the West. For this he will be permanently remembered.

One token of his culture-bridging, and of his skill, is that he succeeded in translating Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll into Bengali. He had, after all, in true middle class fashion been brought up on *The Boy's Own Paper* and *Wodehouse*.

Satyajit Ray is survived by his wife, Bijoya and his son, Sandip.

BERNARD FISHER, GC

Bernard Fisher, GC, who originally received his award as an Edward Medal in 1929 after rescuing a fellow crane driver at a Yorkshire steelworks, died on April 12 aged 80. He was born on December 14, 1911.



BERNARD Fisher won his Edward Medal for the rescue of a colleague, William Hird, under hazardous circumstances when a fire broke out in the cabin of a steelworks crane at some distance above the ground. Early on an April morning Fisher was driving a travelling jib crane in the Templeborough steel melting shop of Steel, Peck and Tozer Ltd, in Sheffield, when he heard a shout from the driver of a gantry crane which was operating at a height of more than 55 feet from the ground.

Fisher saw that smoke was pouring from the cabin of the crane and immediately got down from his own cabin and climbed the steel ladder to the gantry crane track. Once there, he had to cross the eighty foot span of the gantry, get down another 12 feet of ladder, and squeeze through a small trap door into the cabin of the crane which was, by then, well ablaze.

He managed to manoeuvre the injured and unconscious

Hird through the trap door and carry him back up the vertical section of ladder to the gantry from where he was brought to safety. For this dangerous, not to say physically very difficult, rescue Fisher was awarded the Edward Medal which he received from King George VI at Buckingham Palace on February 6, 1940. In addition to this official recognition colleagues in the steel industry presented him with a gold watch and chain.

On July 17, 1974, Fisher was invested with the George Cross and presented his Edward Medal to Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham. He received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977.

APPRECIATION

Molly Picon

NO ACCOUNT of the life of Molly Picon (obituary, April 16) should omit the career by which she herself added a tiny footnote to the story of the American film industry.

For about ten years, until the war and the Holocaust ended both the lives and the language of the bulk of the people who spoke it, a small Yiddish film industry existed in New York, supplying movies to the rapidly decreasing immigrant generation and exporting them to Europe. Molly Picon was its principal female star — nostalgically recalling the days of "der Heim" to Yiddish speakers in her own country and reminding those still living in the ghettos and "Shetls" of Eastern Europe what life had been like in the 19th century.

Much of her acting career had been with the Yiddish theatre in Paris and there, too, she made films in the language. She even went to Poland in 1937 and starred as a 12-year-old girl (she was 40 at the time) in the film *Mamelia*. While there, she made her most famous Yiddish movie of all, *Yiddish With The Fiddle*, in which she played an itinerant "klesmer" musician, dressed up as a boy. It was probably the most



successful Yiddish film ever made. In 1956, in London, she recorded an English soundtrack for the film retitled *Castles In The Air*.

But it was in a much more recent film that she created the perfect "shetl" character, the epitome of the Jewish woman bodybudy in small-town Russia (or rather the Ukraine, in this case). She was the definitive Yente, the matchmaker, in the 1971 wide-screen musical, *Fiddler On The Roof*. With her shrugs, her intonations, her wig never quite fitting properly and the small round, steel-framed glasses, she was everything that essential figure from the past represented.

Michael Freedland

LEONARD CUTTS

Leonard Cutts, publisher, died on April 9 aged 87. He was born on November 27, 1904.



LEONARD Cutts originated, in 1939, the *Teach Yourself* series of books which today extend to a thousand or more titles ranging from *Teach Yourself Canasta* to *Teach Yourself Swahili*. For many years he was responsible for religious publications at Hodder and Stoughton and he also handled Leslie Charteris and his *Saint* books, the publishing of J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* and commissioned a short story from the author James Hilton which later became *Goodbye Mr Chips*.

Leonard Cutts had a flair and a passion for publishing. Of humble origin, and with little formal education, he

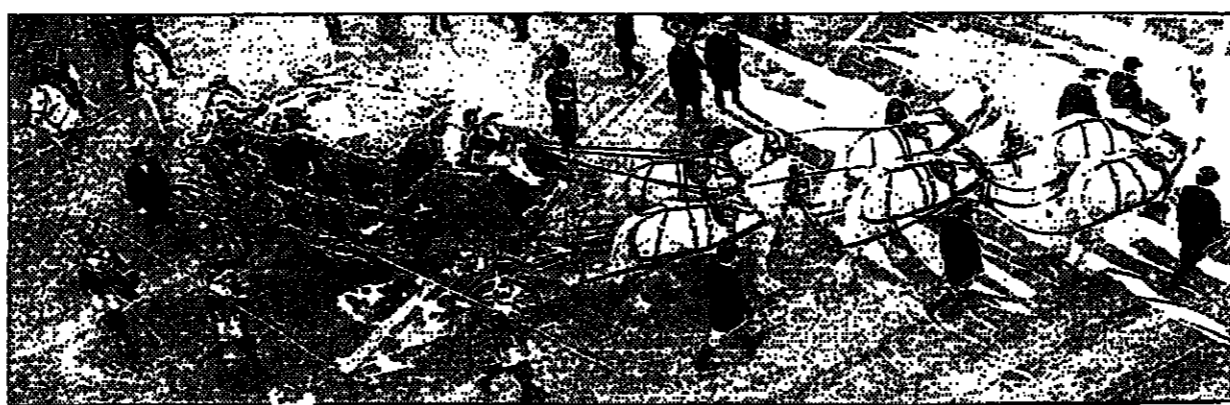
gave the best part of half a century of his life to the cause of books aimed for the most part at the middle-range of readers.

Having joined the firm of Hodder & Stoughton in 1922 as an assistant to Arthur Hird, he was charged, ten years later, with the running of its religious publications. His first best-seller was *For Sinners Only* by A. J. Russell. He had an eye for finding writers of distinction who included such men as Leslie Weatherhead, J. B. Phillips (of *The New Testament in Modern English* fame) and William Neil (whose *One-volume Bible Commentary* also became a best-seller).

Cutts was made a director of Hodder's in 1959, retiring ten years later. His field of activity was not restricted to that of religious publishing. Having founded the *Teach Yourself* series of books, this formed a major part of his work from 1939 to 1964. He was also involved in recruiting John Hunt to write his now famous *Ascent of Everest* (1953) and helped to create the paperback company Pan Books which linked Hodder's with Collins, Macmillan and Heinemann.

A gregarious man and amusing raconteur, he was as happy among friends at the Athenaeum as he was in less prestigious surroundings. He was a kindly mentor, shrewd in his judgment of human nature and of books.

JOHN REID



The Lord Mayor's coach passes by at the procession of Sir Peter Vanneck in 1977

John Reid, OBE, DL, Pageantmaster to the Lord Mayors of London, died on April 14 aged 66. He was born on December 1, 1925.

THANKS to John Reid, the Lord Mayor's show has taken on a new lease of life. He had been responsible for it since 1972 and enhanced the reputation it had gained as part of the life of the City of London over the centuries. For many, it is an emblem of the City's power and history and its commitment to the citizens of London, charitable purposes and the Armed Forces.

But before the invitation made by Lord Mait to Reid to organise his Lord Mayor's Procession in 1972, the pageant had fallen into a parlous state. There were then only 24

floats in a procession in three parts, each organised independently. The timing was erratic and interest was understandably at a low ebb, both for those entitled to take part and those who might have wished to do so. It is a measure of Reid's achievement since then that the procession now contains up to 60 floats, and, overall, 150 separate units. It is over-subscribed and runs with meticulous precision.

Each show takes more than 18 months to prepare. There is no rehearsal for the participants, but under Reid's firm hand the military, civic and float elements blended in a memorable spectacle.

In August 1990 Reid was responsible for the detailed arrangements for a fireworks display in the Upper Pool of London as part of the Livery

Companies' celebrations for the 90th birthday of the Queen Mother. Reid served as master in two Livery Companies, the Chartered Architects and Furniture Makers.

He was an architect and consultant designer and the work he was responsible for included the Great Room at the Grosvenor House. He was also lighting consultant for Coventry Cathedral. One of his last commissions was for the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Switzerland and a drawing for it was exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

He had been in partnership with his wife since the Festival of Britain, and their work brought them four Design Council awards, and silver medals at the 10th and 12th Milan Triennales. Examples of their furniture and

industrial design are included in the permanent collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum. Their first private house was included in the Suffolk volume of Pevsner's *The Buildings of England*. Among designs for mass-produced furniture, their work for Stag in the 1950s created a best-selling range.

Reid was president of the Chartered Society of Designers, 1966-67, president of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design, 1969-71, and a design adviser to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.

His professional and public service was recognised by his appointment as OBE. He was deputy lieutenant of Waltham Forest.

Reid leaves a widow, Sylvia, a son and twin daughters.

April 24 ON THIS DAY 1933

In addition to designing fine cars for domestic use, Sir Henry Royce (1862-1933) was also responsible for the designs of engines which gained for Britain world speed records on land, sea and air.

SIR HENRY ROYCE

Sir Henry Royce, the great designer of motor cars and aeroplane engines, died on Saturday at his home, Elmstead, West Wittering, near Chichester, at the age of 70.

Among his other triumphs Sir Henry designed engines which gained for Britain the world speed records on land, sea, and air, including the engines which enabled Flight Lieutenant Stainforth to set up the world air speed record of 407 miles an hour, Sir Malcolm Campbell to raise his own record on land, and Mr Kaye Don to make a new water record. He designed the engine used by Sir John Alcock and Sir Arthur Whitten Brown when they made the first Atlantic flight.

Frederick Henry Royce was born on March 27, 1863, the son and grandson of flour millers. The death of his father made it necessary for him to earn his living, and when he was 10 years old he was selling newspapers, and later became a Post Office messenger boy. At the age of 14 he was taken as an apprentice at the Great Northern Railway works at Peterborough, where he learned all he could about engines, but lack of money compelled him to leave the works before completing his apprenticeship. At Leeds he found employment at a gun factory, working for 16 hours a day. From this he escaped by being appointed a tester with one of the first electric lighting companies, and moved to London where he studied at the

City and Guilds College and made such progress that in 1882 he was appointed chief electrical engineer for the pioneer lighting of the streets of Liverpool.

Royce was now an accomplished electrician with a wide knowledge of general engineering and machinery, and when he was 21 he decided to launch out for himself. Accordingly he founded at Manchester the firm of Royce, Limited, mechanical and electrical engineers. He specialized in electrical dynamos and cranes which proved so efficient that his firm continued to manufacture them to this day. His success from the beginning was due entirely to the thoroughness of the work which he turned out and he had the gift of inspiring all who worked under him with the high standard which he set for himself in everything he did.

In those early days a broken down motor car was not an uncommon sight by the roadside and Royce resolved to manufacture the finest car in the world, an ambition that was fully realized. Another young man, already a famous motorist, the Hon C.S. Rolls, saw one of the first two-cylinder Royce cars at a show and became so enthusiastic about it that he immediately undertook to sell all the cars that Royce could build.

This was the origin of a memorable partnership. In 1907 the automobile department of Royce, Limited, was combined with the business of C. S. Rolls and Co. as Rolls-Royce, Limited. Royce becoming works director and chief engineer. In 1910 Mr Rolls was killed by a fall from an aeroplane, but the business was already well established, and the Rolls-Royce car has continued to maintain and extend its high reputation.

When in 1904 Royce built the first two-cylinder Rolls-Royce chassis, *The Times* Motoring Correspondent of that day, who tried the car in Paris, observed that, when the engine was running "one could neither hear nor feel it."

Cheese fraud backlash may cost Irish £10m

By TOM WALKER AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE European Commission may dock up to £10 million from the Irish Republic's allocation from the Common Agricultural Policy budget because of alleged abuse of cheese export subsidies.

The move comes after the EC court of auditors said that taxpayers had been cheated out of more than £11 million. The court did not name culprits, but initial reports out of Brussels blamed Belgian and French dairy companies.

That now appears to be wrong. The auditors investigated activities of two companies, referred to as "A and

B", and described schemes by which CAP export refunds for top-quality cheese were claimed on cheaper or below-par products.

Commission officials and dairy industry sources in Brussels yesterday identified the two companies as the Irish Dairy Board, Ireland's biggest dairy exporter, whose main brand is Kerry Gold, and DMK, of Hamburg.

An EC official said that "£10 million, and possibly more" might be cut from Ireland's CAP allocation for 1990. It would then be for the Irish government to try to recoup the sum from the board. In 1989, the last year accounted for, Brussels gave Ireland just over £1.1 billion, of which just over half was spent on export refunds.

The official said that the relationship between the Irish agriculture department and the dairy board was unhealthy. "They are too close," he said, pointing out that Ireland was the only EC country whose agriculture ministry disbursed CAP export refunds, contrary to EC rules that say separate agencies should be set up for the task.

"We have tried, unsuccessfully, to bring Ireland into line," the official said. "We haven't yet begun an infringement procedure."

The Irish and German governments had tried to stop the auditors' report from being published, the official said. Under EC support for farmers, farm prices are kept artificially high. When a trader exports cheese to outside the EC, where prices can be up to 50 per cent lower, he is entitled to an export refund to make up the difference. "At least half of the selling price of cheese in the end is public money," the official said.

Commission sources blame most cheese frauds found by the auditors on the Irish Dairy Board and say that meetings were held with the Irish government on the matter. The board and the Irish agriculture department refused last night to comment.

The worst fraud involved bending EC rules on the water content of cheddar, and led to excess claims for export refunds amounting to £7.7 million in 1989.

Japan will cut car exports

JAPAN has agreed to cut this year's car exports to the European Community, a European Commission spokesman said yesterday.

He said Japan's ministry of international trade and industry had agreed at talks in Tokyo to cut sales by rather more than the expected 5 per cent drop in EC car market demand this year. The spokesman would not say by exactly how much Japanese car exports would be cut this year but said Japan had shipped 1.25 million cars to the EC last year, and Community new car demand was expected to fall by five per cent this year.

Two days of talks in Tokyo had followed the Commission's request to the Japanese to cut car exports to the EC. The Commission had wanted the cuts in view of poor operating results by some Community carmakers, falling domestic demand, and difficulties facing the European car industry as restructures itself to become more competitive with its more efficient Japanese rivals.

An agreement last July provided for a transitional period until the end of 1999 before the European car market is thrown open to unrestricted Japanese competition, during which Japanese car exports are to be monitored.



Steel magnolias: Ian Roberts, of the Garden Festival of Wales, clearing the lid of an industrial crusher in preparation for a garden display. The festival is being held on the site of the former steel works at Ebbw Vale, and several pieces of old machinery will be used for exhibits. The festival, which opens next Friday and runs until October 4, will also feature concerts, children's rides and sports events

Probe finds key to universe

Continued from page 1

tion before people get too excited. Cosmologists have long wondered why a universe that apparently started out as a completely smooth distribution of matter after the big bang should have acquired the lumpy consistency that we now see.

The puzzle originates from the discovery 28 years ago of the microwave background radiation, a kind of low-pitched hum that permeates the universe and is believed to be the last dying echo of the big bang. Everywhere astronomers pointed a receiver the hum was the same, confirming that the early universe was apparently smooth. Now the Nasa satellite has identified tiny variations in the hum that represent the embryos from which the stars and galaxies grew.

Dr. Smoot said that the "ripples" in the background radiation were extremely

wispy clouds of matter, "the largest and most ancient structures in the universe", dating to a period almost 15 billion years ago.

"What we have found solves a major mystery, revealing for the first time the primordial seeds that developed into the modern universe," said John Mather, chief scientist of the \$400 million mission.

The satellite measured the energy of the microwave radiation in two different directions at right angles. The background radiation, first discovered in 1964, has a temperature just 3 degrees Celsius above absolute zero. The results now show that rather than being absolutely uniform, this radiation has almost imperceptible temperature variations.



A map of the universe produced with data from the Nasa satellite Cosmic Background Explorer

Shots follow signing of Bosnia ceasefire

Continued from page 1

It is that my plea and my order."

The three groups undertook to stop the fighting earlier in the day after discussions with European Community mediators led by Lord Carrington, chairman of the EC conference on Yugoslavia, and João de Deus Pinheiro, foreign minister of Portugal, which holds the EC's rotating chairmanship. They formally signed the ceasefire document several hours later after further talks chaired by Colm Doyle, the EC mediator.

The three parties have agreed to respect fully and unconditionally the ceasefire agreement of April 12, "on this basis the three parties further agree to resume talks on the future constitutional arrangements of Bosnia-Herzegovina under the auspices of the Eu-

ropean Community on April 27." But in a sign of the continuing animosity, Radovan Karadzic, the Serb delegate, signed separately from the Muslim president and Franjo Boras, his Croat ally.

The sniper fire forced observers and journalists to duck for cover but no casualties were reported. The shooting came from a predominantly Muslim district.

Mr. Karadzic said after meeting Lord Carrington that the Serbs were "ready to sit down, even in Hell, to get peace for this country."

Lord Carrington later left for Belgrade where he was cautious in assessing the chances for peace. "I think they were all really rather scared by the level of violence," he said.

Muslim scepticism, page 7
Diary, page 10

Alerts failed to avert gas blasts

Continued from page 1

Many were angry yesterday. "We told you. We called you. You never paid any attention to us," people at one cratered intersection screamed at Guillermo Cosío Vidauri, the state governor, as he toured the stricken La Reforma district.

"My family is buried there," one survivor said, pointing to a pile of rubble. "We'll dig them up in a while," the governor replied — then turned and left.

Martin Bonales said his wife called police and fire offices on Tuesday night and was told nothing could be done. "Then I called myself and asked them if there were any problems. They told me everything was under control. They told me not to worry. I called later and they told me, 'Look, don't do anything. Don't say anything. Stop spreading rumours, you'll create terror.' Look at what they created."

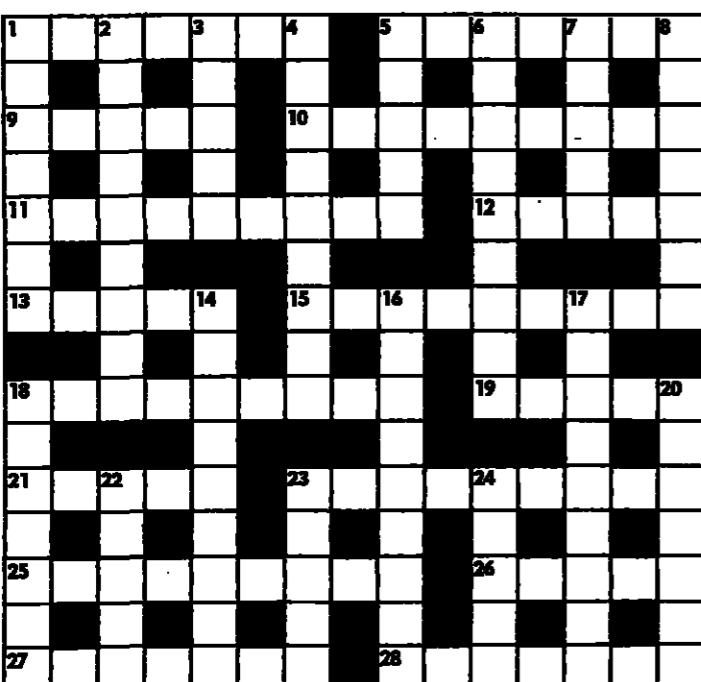
Ramón Guerra, 22, said he had pulled the bodies of his sister and his six-year-old nephew from the ruins of their home. "If authorities knew about this why didn't they tell us?" he asked.

As many as 15,000 homeless gathered in two sports stadiums until temporary shelters could be set up. The explosion ripped open streets, hurled cars and lorries into the air and blew up adobe houses. One jagged trench, which had damaged about 1,000 buildings, was 2½ miles long.

The city department that operates the sewerage system said its specialists had been working on the gas problem on Tuesday night, and had asked the cooking company, La Central, to close temporarily, which it had done. Officials have said the explosions were caused by hexane, a solvent similar to butane or propane, they believe leaked or was discharged into the sewers and was ignited after several days, igniting the drains into a serpent of thunder and fire. La Central denied it was responsible in a statement yesterday and said its 60,000-litre tank of hexane and its contents were intact.

Unconfirmed reports that the leak might have come from a pipeline running from a refinery of state-owned Petroleros Mexicanos (Pemex) stemmed from statements on police radio. Pemex denied that its installations were responsible. (AP/AFIP)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,901



ACROSS

- Rope in Constable, perhaps (7).
- Scholars learned to 19 (7).
- Sack or fire (5).
- You need money to catch a star (9).
- Boundary lines of old concealed by man (9).
- Answer only five put in (5).
- Walk or take public transport — parking's short (5).
- Talk softly when trapped by predator, a marsupial (9).
- Medical attention for people beginning to tremble after feast (9).
- Work on poverty, we hear (5).
- Someone very close — surely not (5).
- Accessory in stir — get replacement (6,3).

DOWN

- Assign property (9).
- Inclined to be embarrassed holding both ace and king (5).
- Indeed set out late (7).
- Time man wanted desperately (7).
- Soldier has a favourite form of defence (7).
- To annoy, I dined wearing mink (9).
- Most of them join a Marine unit (5).
- Bear up! Let off, being of good character (9).
- So-called fashion house (5).
- Disorganised pits overwhelmed by coal dust — it's a farce (9).
- One providing backing for a harpist (5).
- Not the second worst challenge for climbers (7).
- Shame about a shift, say, in a family relationship (9).
- Reputation — one I try to change (9).
- In full view, a man is passed (9).
- Vessel put vehicle on a road (7).
- Awful doctor supervising a deed that's awful (7).
- It's highly important to have half a dozen soldiers left (5).
- Measure the depth of water in well (5).
- Not entirely conventional girl (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,900

DISCO RENIGHTED
EIPRAOAR
CONFERIST DICTA
KONGGOTUN
CZCHAWESTRUCK
HONNAN
AGROUND TUMBLE
IEB ALEI
REDRESS ARRAVED
EPRRE
PANELIST SMALL
ASONDTMI
NOISY OPERATING
GAUUCIISB
GAINALITTO LIBZM

AA Roadwatch

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

SQUARSON
a. A gift-topical
b. A German-landlord
c. A nephew

EPICENE
a. Pertaining to both sexes
b. Before dinner
c. On-stage

PRISIADKHA
a. Spinach and sour cream samosa
b. Russian squatting dance
c. A presiding judge

EUNUCHATE
a. To emasculate
b. Perfectly formed
c. To sleep soundly

Answers on page 12

AA Roadwatch

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE
C. London (within N & S Circs) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Aberdeen 740
East Angles 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

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England and Wales will have rain in the west and north, spreading south-eastwards, followed by brighter, showery weather, but south-east England will stay dry until evening. Northern Ireland and Scotland wet before brighter, showery weather spreads north-eastwards, but north-west Scotland will not clear until well into afternoon. Outlook: all parts bright with blustery showers after rain in south-east England. Rain in southern England on Sunday.

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THE POUND

US dollar 1.540 (-0.0340)

German mark 2.9295 (-0.0013)

Exchange index 92.2 (same)

Bank of England official base rate (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 20427 (+7.9)

FT-SE 100 2699.8 (+2.0)

New York Dow Jones 33235.0 (+15.42)

Tokyo Nikkei Avg 17402.05 (-562.93)

INTEREST RATE

London: Bank Rate 10.75%

US Federal Reserve 5.75%

30-year bonds 95.19%

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BUSINESS NEWS
INFOTECH TIMES
YOUR OWN BUSINESS
SPORT 31-34

TODAY IN BUSINESS

POWER CUTS

Companies rushing to build new power stations are warned to be prepared to shut them at short notice in view of excess capacity

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CORDLESS

Wireless networks are promising the advent of "personal" computing power radio links

Infotech Times pages 23-29

DISASTER MOVERS

The Italian government is expected to shift the blame for the earthquake and natural disasters, including the earthquake in Brussels

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TOMORROW

PROFILE

James Wolfensohn, head of the World Bank, has a reputation for being a company

FOOTING THE BILL

Investors could end up paying for funding decisions at the Investors' Compensation Scheme

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● INFOTECH TIMES 23-28
● YOUR OWN BUSINESS 30
● SPORT 31-34

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Infotech Times pages 23-29

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The Italian government hopes to shift the blame for national and natural disasters, including the Etna eruption, to Brussels
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TOMORROW

PROFILE



James Wolfensohn, financial right-hand man to the great and the grovelling, has a client list of blue chip companies

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US dollar 1.7640 (+0.0040)
German mark 2.9295 (-0.0013)
Exchange index 92.2 (same)
Bank of England official base (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2042.7 (+7.9)
FT-SE 100 2609.8 (+2.0)
New York Dow Jones 3323.35 (-15.42)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17402.05 (+562.93)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2%
US Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 3 7/8%
30-year bonds 9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7639
£ DM1.6585
£ Sfr1.5405
£ ¥134.45
£ Ind. 65.1
ECU 1.770310
SDR 1.770310
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$338.80 pm \$338.50
close \$338.40 \$338.80 (£191.90)
New York
Comex \$339.05-329.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$19.75 bid (\$18.80)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.7 March (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Cahill puts best foot forward to pilot troubled BAe



Cahill: experience

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

IT MUST be hard to project an authoritative presence as the chairman-designate of Britain's largest manufacturing company, British Aerospace, with your bandaged foot supported on a chair. John Cahill manages the task rather well.

The former chief executive of BTR, the international conglomerate, has a big frame and a commanding height, even when seated. His naturally grave manner seems entirely suitable to the scale of the problem at the troubled war planes to cars group. Mr Cahill must be hoping the ill-fortune that has dog-

ged his appointment will soon be shaken off. He would have been named as successor to Sir Graham Day, the interim chairman, a month ago, had he not tripped and broken his foot during a transatlantic flight in January.

As it is, he has recovered fast enough to allow Sir Graham, who took over from Professor Roland Smith last September to pilot BAe through its troubled £432 million rights issue, to honour a promise of naming a permanent replacement by end-April. The replacement for Dudley Eustace, the former finance director who resigned in the wake of the rights flop, should also be named by the end of next week.

Together with the existing BAe team, led by Dick Evans, the chief executive, the new men must restore BAe's fortunes and battered stock market credibility.

BAe is one of the world's three largest defence companies, with a 4 per cent share in the world weapons market. During the 1980s, the group also moved heavily into car-making, through Rover Group, and property, through Arlington, the developer. BAe is now faced with disarray in military markets and the consequences of a cyclical downturn in property and vehicles. Last year, the company lost £81 million, against pre-tax profits of £376 million in 1990. Sir Graham, who will

resume his non-executive role on the board after handing over the reins of power on May 1, said Mr Cahill, 62, was the only person offered the job of chairman. But stock market dealers suggested the appointment had the air of a panic measure. Mr Cahill began his career in the City after leaving school at the age of 16. In 1955, he joined BTR Industries. Sir Owen Green arrived three years later as finance director of a BTR acquisition, Oilfield Engineering, and went on to build BTR into a multibillion pound company, with Mr Cahill in his top team.

However, Mr Cahill arrived in the chief executive seat in 1987, as a

global bull market began boiling over into recession. Since he retired to run BTR's American business last year, that group's progress, under Alan Jackson, has looked more spectacular to City cynics.

However, after 37 years of leading roles at Britain's most successful international industrial conglomerate, Mr Cahill has the experience BAe needs. Few people can know as well how to run a complex international manufacturing business to produce cash flow and profit. Mr Cahill has a five-year contract. Getting his feet under the chairman's desk has not been easy. If he can make BAe fly, no one will question his right to keep them there.

Dowty rejects £1.2 bn hostile bid from TI

By COLIN CAMPBELL

TI GROUP yesterday produced the first major contested bid since the general election with a share offer for Dowty Group, valuing the engineering and aerospace company at £518 million.

The bid underlines renewed confidence in the wake of the Conservatives' election victory. Christopher Lewinton, TI's chairman, said the 4-for-15 offer, with a cash alternative of 174.67p per Dowty share, had long been in TI's mind, and the decision to go ahead was made "at the first smell of a Tory win".

Mr Lewinton said TI had made friendly approaches and held meetings with Dowty representatives last year, at which rationalisation and development plans were proposed. Dowty, however, rebuffed TI's ideas, and said it wanted to pursue its own goals, and TI's takeover offer was put away.

Yesterday, it was brought out again, when Mr Lewinton telephoned Roy Roberts, Dowty's chairman, to tell him a bid had been made.

Dowty shares jumped from 145p to touch 177p. TI shares, which have been underwritten at a benchmark of 655p, fell from 716p to 669p.

Analysts do not rule out counterbids for Dowty, including from European groups, although TI insisted yesterday that its offer was full, extremely serious, and generous.

Mr Lewinton said he wanted to restore Dowty's name, image, direction and fortunes, and that a successful takeover fitted in with TI's philosophy of developing a specialist engineering group. He said: "Specialist engineering has been the drumbeat of TI, and we know where we want to go in the world."

Dowty's core aerospace engineering and polymer businesses would enable TI to

compete effectively on a global basis.

Other Dowty interests would, under the TI takeover plan, be examined and, if not wanted, sold. TI would assume debts of between £125 million and £150 million by taking over Dowty.

Mr Lewinton said: "I do not like cash drains. I will drop the guillotine on them."

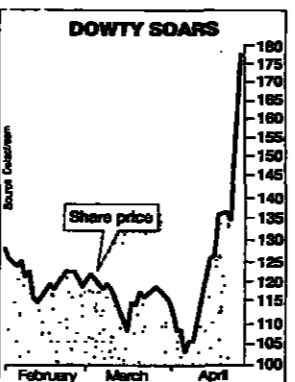
TI was unable to quantify likely job losses in a merged group. TI currently employs about 17,000 and Dowty about 15,000. There would be cost savings at the head offices, Mr Lewinton added.

Mannesmann, the German engineering group, will participate in the sub-underwriting and thereby maintain its 7 per cent interest in TI.

Defence would constitute less than 10 per cent of a merged group. Aerospace interests would account for 35 per cent, automotive for 20 per cent and industrial operations for 35 per cent.

Dowty's board meets at 10am today to consider TI's offer in more detail.

Meanwhile, Dowty said the offer significantly undervalues its potential, and urged shareholders not to sell their shares in the market.



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SIMON WALKER

Tory win prompts action: Christopher Lewinton after yesterday's call to Dowty

BP sheds 700 office workers

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BP is to shed 700 jobs, more than half of its total corporate staff in London and Harlow, Essex.

Up to 400 are expected to be re-employed by contractors as the oil company hands over responsibility for support functions. A further 100 may be transferred to other parts of the company, but BP said at least 250 would be made redundant.

Redundant staff would be offered counselling and appropriate severance packages, the company said. The cuts and re-organisation are part of a drive by the group to save \$750 million a year worldwide.

Each of BP's main businesses, including BP Exploration, BP Oil, BP Chemicals and BP Nutrition will be involved in the money-saving effort, the company said.

BP said it was also studying the structure of its research and engineering functions to meet future business requirements of those areas "in the most cost-effective manner possible".

The spokesman said a number of functions, now dealt with internally by BP, could be handed to outside companies. This had already happened at BP Exploration, where accounting was contracted out, he said.

He added that it was hoped such "outsourcing" arrangements would provide new employment for almost 400 people. However, the spokesman said there could be no certainty that this would be achieved.

German money supply leaps

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BUNDESBANK figures showed an alarming surge in German money supply in March that all but extinguished hopes of German interest rates coming down this summer and set the currency market wondering whether the next move might even be up.

The annual rise in M3, the targeted broad money measure, was a provisional 9.7 per cent in March, far in excess of market expectations and well outside the target range of 3.5 to 5.5 per cent for this year.

The annual rise in February was revised up slightly to 8.6 per cent.

Accelerating money supply growth, despite the Bundesbank's aggressive tightening last year, would appear to rule out any early move to lower key German lending rates, which would open the way for

a long-awaited general easing across Europe, including Britain.

The Bundesbank, which has been widely attacked for keeping policy tight, despite economic slowdown, has now overshoot its M3 target for three months running. Bank lending, which showed an annual rise of 23.1 per cent in March, is the main force driving the money figures. The Bundesbank has given a warning that the data are an unreliable indicator at present, because of unification.

The pound, which had settled down at about DM2.93 for most of the day, dipped to DM2.9295 by the official 4pm London close, reflecting the firmer tone the Bundesbank data had given the mark.

Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International,

said the German figures showed that an "early cut in interest rates is clearly not on the cards. Indeed, there must be a risk of further tightening."

American figures showed a broadly based 1.6 per cent rise in orders for durable goods in March, after no change in February and a 2.4 per cent increase in January. The labour department said the number of first-time claimants for unemployment benefit fell to 404,000 in the second week in April, the lowest for six months.

Bank of England figures showed bank notes in circulation up an annual 6 per cent in the week to April 22, after a 5.8 per cent annual rise the previous week. The timing of Easter has, however, distorted notes data.

Comment, page 19

Vickers seeks good price for Rolls

By JON ASHWORTH

TALKS are continuing over the possible sale of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, the loss-making subsidiary of Vickers, the defence and engineering group. But the company will not be rushed into accepting too low a price, Sir David Plawson, chairman of Vickers, told shareholders yesterday.

Sir David, who hands over to Sir Colin Chandler next month, said exploratory talks with several potential suitors had come to nothing so far. He added: "It could be that Rolls-Royce is not for sale."

Rolls is believed to carry a price tag of £200 million. Toyota has said it has no plans to enter the bidding.

Last year, Vickers sold only 1,722 cars, compared with 3,333 in 1990.

Comment, page 19

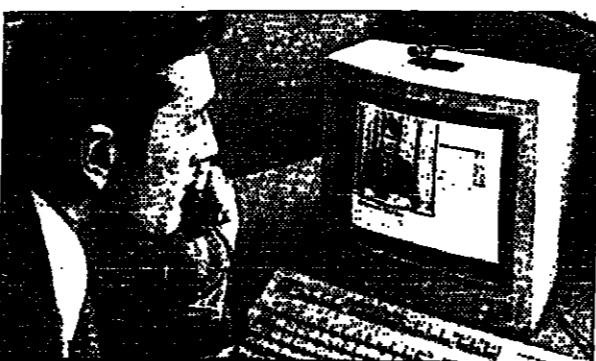
First the PC, now the videophone

By NICK NUTTALL

PEOPLE could soon find the voices and faces of irate customers, long-suffering wives and fearsome managers popping up and peering at them from their personal computer screens.

This possibility emerged yesterday with the unveiling by BT and IBM of what they claim is the world's first PC-videophone. Equipment needed to upgrade a computer into a PC videophone is expected next year.

Customer relations is one area that BT and IBM foresee being transformed by face-to-face communications. For example, people accused wrongly of non-payment will be able to confront officials, such as the taxman, via office computer screens and show them cheque stubs to prove their innocence and



On-screen management with the PC videophone

even fax copies. Another area is home shopping, where buyers could chat over their PCs to shop assistants while viewing lists of groceries.

Because the size of the video image can be controlled to fill only part of the screen, diagrams, charts or plans

can be displayed side by side with the picture.

The technology allows one party to send documents and the images to another person's PC videophone. Such a videophone will also enable accessing images from remote picture databases. The

availability of the system has been brought about by the gradual introduction of integrated services digital networks, which are connected to an estimated 86 per cent of UK businesses. They are now being added to the domestic telephone network.

The cost of upgrading a PC to incorporate a videophone feature is estimated to be about £4,000.

Technology to compress a video signal and developed for BT's videoconference business has helped with developing the new desk-top device.

Chris Frost, IBM's networking strategy manager, said that the arrival of the computer phones could mark a terminal decline of the fax machine as a mass-market business tool.

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Virani goes in coup at Control Securities

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

NAZMU Virani, the entrepreneur facing a charge of false accounting in connection with the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, has been ousted from Control Securities, the company he created, in a boardroom coup.

A board meeting on Wednesday dismissed Mr Virani and his two brothers, Zul and Silu, from their directorships. The action was led by Sydney Robin, the new chairman, after advice from Williams de Broë, the company's stockbroker.

Zul Virani has also been removed from his post as managing director of Control's leisure division, which runs the Belhaven Brewery and a chain of 800 public houses.

Silu Virani was the head of the group's property business. A spokesman said that the posts would be filled by existing management.

Nazmu Virani stepped down as chairman and chief executive of Control earlier this month to prepare for his

forthcoming trial, but said he and his brothers would remain directors.

He is facing one charge of conspiring with Mohammed Haque, a BCCI official, to make a false account to a value of \$4 million and has been granted bail of £1.25 million until July.

The three brothers are believed to have been voted off the board by a five-to-three majority.

The other directors decided they had to distance Control Securities from the Virani family to secure its future and win a relisting on the stock market.

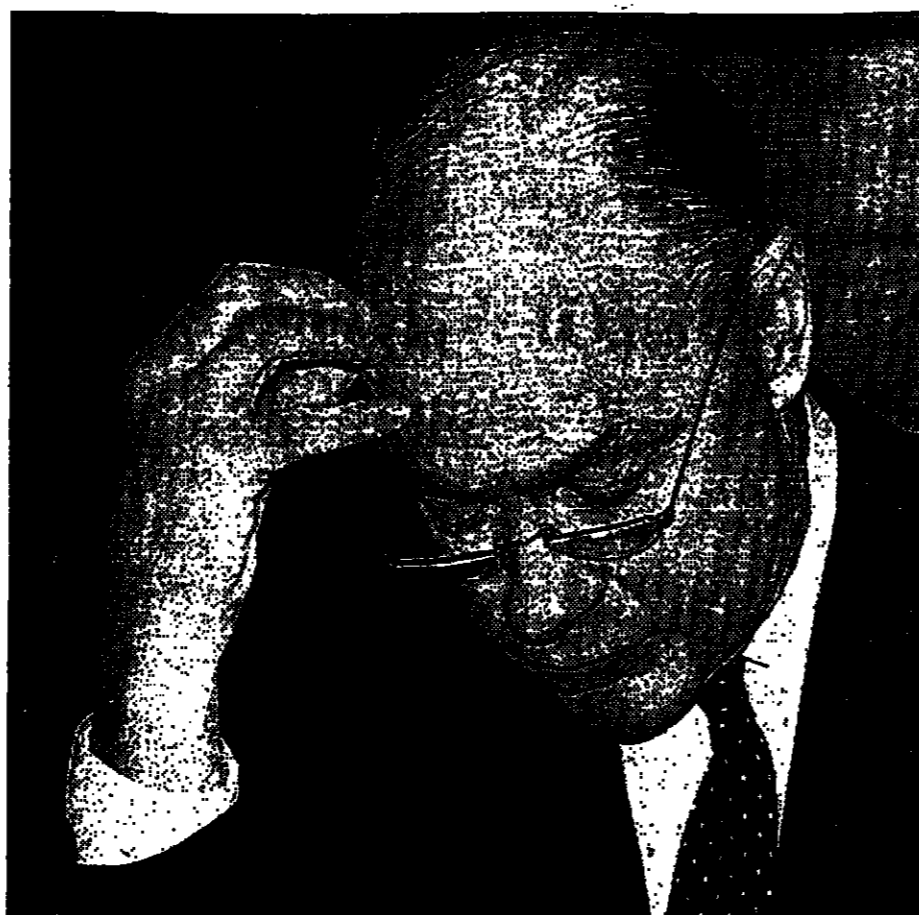
Control's shares were suspended at 16.4p last October when the Serious Fraud Office raided its offices.

Mr Robin, a former joint managing director of Great Universal Stores, was a non-executive director of Control until his appointment earlier this month. His action was supported by other non-executives including John Bellak, the chairman of Severn Trent.

Mr Virani's dismissal is a harsh end to his seven-year reign at Control. During that time he transformed the company from a £2 million shell into a £200 million brewing and property group.

Mr Virani arrived in Britain from Uganda in 1971 and started business in a small supermarket at Dulwich, south London. He later expanded into wholesale distribution, soft drinks and hotels.

Control's latest annual report states that the Virani family controls a 12.9 per cent stake in the company through the Virani Group, a private company, and Zelve Anstalt, a Liechtenstein trust.



Pondering Midland: Sir Jeremy Morse may decide today on a counterbid

Lloyds keeps counterbid for Midland 'under review'

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

SIR Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds, said the bank is keeping HSBC Holdings' £3.1 billion bid for Midland Bank "under review", amid signs of it preparing a counterbid.

Speaking at his last annual meeting before retirement, Sir Jeremy refused to say whether Lloyds would bid. "This is an important development for the British banking system as a whole and naturally we are keeping it under review," Sir Jeremy denied the bank has been leaking its plans to the press.

Lloyds is likely to decide on whether to bid at its regular monthly board meeting today. Directors discussed options at a dinner at the bank's headquarters last night, to mark the retirement of Sir John Hedley Greenborough, a deputy chairman.

The bank is looking at how it could say it intends to bid without naming a price until clearance came from the

Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Lloyds has already hired Barings as merchant bank adviser for a possible bid and in March employed a public relations firm to prepare the ground for an offer. Sir Jeremy and Brian Pitman, chief executive, have asked the Bank of England for permission to counterbid.

There was opposition to a bid from shareholders at the meeting. One said: "It would be morally wrong and the unacceptable face of capitalism to seek to aggrandise this company at the expense of the jobs of all those staff and inconvenience of millions of customers." A Lloyds-Midland merger would cost at least 20,000 jobs and 1,000 branch closures.

Lloyds is also believed to be rehearsing its arguments for the bid and a possible MMC referral. Sources close to the bank claim the minimum saving from the merger

will be £500 million a year, against £50 million for an HSBC-Midland merger.

Lloyds will also argue the merger will accelerate inevitable banking job losses, and neither Lloyds nor Midland has the critical mass in its domestic market it needs to compete in Europe. Robert Fleming Securities, the broker, has published a report showing Lloyds has the worst-quality corporate lending book of the banks, followed by National Westminster and Barclays. The research is based on data from Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group, which grades creditworthiness of 260,000 British customers.

Fleming shows 21.6 per cent of Lloyds corporate customers have a poor chance of survival, against 14.8 per cent at Clydesdale, the bank with the strongest portfolio. Midland has 19.1 per cent, the best of the big four.

PPP chief calls for more state support

By Liz Dolan

THE government has gone too far in its support for the national health service and must now redress the balance on behalf of the private sector, a healthcare chief said. Roy Forman, managing director of Private Patients Plan, Britain's second-largest private medical insurer, said: "The Conservative government has gone out of its way to defend the NHS in its public statements — but not private healthcare. Bolstered by its electoral success, the government should strongly affirm what many informed commentators know... that, because of the ageing population and sharply rising medical costs, the state will almost certainly be unable to afford to meet people's future needs from taxation."

Mr Forman's plea accompanied news that PPP's pre-tax profits had fallen from £21 million to £18 million in the year to December, though income had again risen, from £355 million to £404 million. Last month, British United Provident Association, the market leader, said it had turned a £38 million loss into a £1.3 million pre-tax profit in the same period.

Mr Forman blamed the recession, "unprecedentedly high" subscriber lapses, increasing competition and continuing claims escalation for the reduction in PPP's profits. The recession had forced client companies to cut back severely on employee cover, or to cease trading altogether, Mr Forman said.

Redundancy and debt were the main reasons for non-renewals by individuals, especially in the second half. Despite this, new enrolments, at 149,200, outstripped lapses, which last year totalled 128,500. Aggressive marketing resulted in an increase in PPP's market share from 25 per cent to 29 per cent.

The amount paid out in claims grew 17.5 per cent to £317 million. A 12.5 per cent rise in claims may have been exacerbated by people trying to get treatment before cancelling cover, he added.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Wm Low suffers 22% decline in profits

WM LOW, the Scottish supermarket group that issued a profits warning in February, suffered a 22.7 per cent decline in first-half profits after increased competition and one-off costs took their toll on margins. In the group's first profits setback since 1979, pre-tax profits fell to £8.82 million (£11.4 million) in the 28 weeks to March 21. Turnover advanced 11.8 per cent to £221.8 million, with like-for-like turnover 4 per cent higher, including inflation.

The total number of stores increased to 66, with 12 outside Scotland. The company expects that to rise to 67 by the year end. The operating margin fell from 5.55 per cent to 4.15 per cent, due to a combination of margin erosion, promotional activity, the impact of new openings, increased branch costs and higher head office costs. The interim dividend is being maintained at 2.7p. Basic earnings dropped from 15.19p a share to 10.73p, while fully diluted earnings fell to 10.03p a share (13.28p). Gearing stood at 20 per cent, and is expected to rise to about 24 per cent by the year end. The shares rose 10p to 223p.

Prestwick pegs payout

PRESTWICK Holdings, the printed circuit board maker, maintained its interim dividend at 0.5p after returning a pre-tax profit of £81,000 in the six months to the end of January, compared with losses of £741,000. Earnings were 0.4p a share, against losses of 2.3p. Turnover rose from £11.89 million to £13.92 million, helping to convert an operating loss of £415,000 last time into a profit of £225,000. This recovery was partly offset by interest charges of £144,000 compared with investment income of £19,000.

IBC stays in the red

INTERNATIONAL Business Communications (Holdings), the conference and publishing group, trimmed its losses but remained in the red despite the disposal of non-core businesses. Pre-tax losses were £4.5 million (£10.1 million) in the year to end-December. Turnover stood at £50 million (£74.1 million). The operating profit was £4.8 million (£462,000), but this was more than wiped out by interest. There was also an exceptional debit of £126,000. The loss per share is cut to 2.9p. Again there is no dividend.

VTR dividend held

VTR, the video post-production services and audio-visual group, is maintaining its interim dividend at 1.2p, despite a 36.1 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £276,000 in the six months to end-February. Despite fewer commercials being made, the USM-quoted group saw turnover advance 10.9 per cent to £3.53 million. Earnings slipped to 2.4p a share (3.7p). Philip Lovegrove, chairman, said the profit was an encouraging improvement on the £168,675 made in the second half of last year.

Rea Brothers slides

DOUBTFUL debt provisions doubled at Rea Brothers, the merchant bank, last year, cutting pre-tax profits to £261,000 against £1.6 million in 1990. The £950,000 provision was on a relatively small loan portfolio. Rea also had to make an exceptional £189,000 provision under Isle of Man rules requiring all banks to allow for potential liabilities for compensation relating to the BCCI collapse. A final 0.25p dividend makes an unchanged 5p total. Sir John Hill, chairman, said offshore operations went from strength to strength.

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EC to investigate swap between ICI and Du Pont

By Wolfgang Münchau, European Business Correspondent

THE European Commission is to investigate a deal between Imperial Chemical Industries and Du Pont of America, under which the two chemical companies plan to swap their nylon and acrylics businesses.

The deal allows the two companies to rid themselves of non-core businesses, while strengthening their market position of their main activities. ICI will sell its nylon, fibres and engineering plastics businesses in Britain, The Netherlands and Germany — representing a turnover of £600 million — to Du Pont, while Du Pont will sell its American acrylics interests and pay ICI an additional £250 million in cash.

Sir Denys Henderson, chairman of ICI, said the swap was part of a worldwide process in the industry towards greater specialisation and concentration. Du Pont invented and commercialised nylon in the late 1930s, and is today one of the world's largest producers of Nylon. The deal will boost Du Pont's market share in Europe. ICI's acquisition of Du Pont's acrylics plants throughout America, which have a combined turnover of \$300 million, will turn the British company into the world's largest acrylics maker.

Sir Denys said ICI had held preliminary talks with

the EC, whose merger task force will conduct a one-month enquiry into the sale of the nylon business to Du Pont. The commission can extend its enquiry into a full four-month investigation if the deal appears to threaten competition.

David Williamson, president of Du Pont Europe, said the group will have a 25 per cent share of the market in Europe. The narrower the EC's definition of Du Pont's market, the greater the risk that the commission might object.

He said the commission would need to take into account the increasing market dominance of east Asian producers. Dr Williamson said: "In the end, Europe has to decide what kind of industries it wants in order to compete with the rest of the world."

Dr Williamson and Sir Denys said the deal would not lead to job losses at any of the ICI plants involved in the deal. Du Pont said the nylon operations of the two companies were complementary, and that "the amount of overlap is trivial".

However, British union leaders were concerned about the future of the 4,000 UK jobs involved in the swap arrangement. Fred Higgs, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union,

said he was "gravely concerned" about job security, as he had received "no positive undertakings from Du Pont about their medium or long-term intentions". He noted that Du Pont recognised unions in only five of its 100 American factories.

In Britain, the deal involves ICI plants at Pontypool in South Wales, E. aster in South Yorkshire, and Gloucester.

Sir Denys said: "ICI Fibres is a business with strong technological and marketing strengths in Europe, but has not been selected by ICI as a global business." Du Pont, meanwhile, has pledged to invest \$10 billion this decade to expand its nylon interests.

The nylon industry has suffered from overcapacity, with demand falling about 20 per cent last year.



Market forces: Tony Millar visits one of Albert Fisher's fruit stalls in London, with Tim Howden (left) and Lenny Pippin (right) group chief executives for Europe and North America respectively

Albert Fisher slides

By Jonathan Prynn

A POOR performance in North America and lower interest income from sterling cash deposits knocked 17 per cent off interim pre-tax profits at Albert Fisher, the food processing and distribution group.

For the six months to end-February, pre-tax profits were £37.2 million (£45 million). Earnings per share were down 17 per cent at 4.31p. The interim dividend rises from 1.75p to 1.85p.

Operating profits in North America fell £3.6 million to £6.7 million. Like-for-like operating profits in Europe fell marginally to £26.1 million. Interest income fell to £4.4 million (£5.5 million).

Tony Millar, the chairman, said that while there were signs of a bottoming out in the UK and North America, weaker conditions in some continental European markets were expected. The shares fell 2p to 69p.

Tempos, page 18

Etam lifts its final dividend

Shareholders who backed Etam against last year's hostile bid from Oceana Investment Corporation, the South African-controlled group, are being rewarded. The final dividend is 5.1p (4.65p), making 6.6p (5.85p).

The fashion retailer, whose operations include Snob and Peter Brown, bucked the trend with a 40 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £11.8 million in the 53 weeks to February.

Tempos, page 18

Starmin chief

Starmin, the quarry products group, has named Cecil Parkinson, the former Conservative MP, as deputy chairman. Pre-tax profits jumped from £764,000 to £3.01 million last year, reflecting acquisitions. A final dividend of 0.2p makes 0.3p (0.1p).

Grampian rise

Grampian Television's pre-tax profits rose 31 per cent to £3.2 million in the year to end-February. A final dividend of 4.5p makes 5.5p (4.1p).

Huntleigh up

Huntleigh Technology saw pre-tax profits soar 42 per cent to £2.3 million last year. A final dividend of 2.75p makes 4.5p (3p).

Jerome loss

S Jerome & Sons (Holdings) fell £1.15 million into the red last year. Pre-tax profits for the previous year were £105,000. The final dividend has been axed, leaving the payout at 1p (2.6p).

CSF advances

Thomson-CSF, the French state-owned defence electronics company, said attributable profits rose from Fr 2.18 billion to Fr 2.35 billion last year.

Key drug sales help SB rise

By Martin Barrow

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American pharmaceutical company, lifted profits 10 per cent from £253 million to £278 million in the first three months of this year, helped by further increases in worldwide sales of its key drugs.

Global sales of Tagamet, the anti-ulcer drug, rose 2 per cent while sales of Augmentin, the antibiotic, increased 3 per cent, despite a decline in demand in America. Total group sales rose to £1.21 billion from £1.11 billion.

SB's pharmaceutical division registered first-quarter sales up 5 per cent and trading profits up 11 per cent from 1991. Currency fluctuations in the first quarter of 1992 benefited sales by 4 percentage points, but profits were adversely affected by 2 percentage points.

Bob Bauman, group chief executive, said the company's most important objective was investing in its research and development capability to produce a consistent flow of new products. He said: "We are delighted with the products that are now coming to market — Seronax, Relafen, Havrix and Kytril are just four examples. We will continue to invest in them this year to ensure they achieve their full potential."

SmithKline Beecham shares fell from 816p to 799p.

Among the new drugs, Seronax, the anti-depressant, completed its first year in Britain with a market share by value of 14.6 per cent at end-March, compared with a 9.2 per cent at end-1991. Relafen, the anti-arthritis, was launched in America in February and early indications suggest success. The group also introduced Havrix, the hepatitis A vaccine, in several European markets.

Liberty sees its pre-tax profits slip to £5.7m

By Jon Ashworth

SALES are slowly picking up at Liberty, the fashion retailer and wholesaler. But it will take a big upturn in trade to make up for a disastrous spell in 1991 that saw trading profit from retailing activities dive from £2.2 million to £823,000.

Profits before tax slipped from £7.2 million to £5.7 million on turnover down 8 per cent to £85 million as the recession took its toll. A final dividend of 5.35p makes 7.2p for the year, a modest rise of 4.3 per cent.

John Pugh, the finance director, said that turnover in retailing had fallen while fixed costs such as rent and salaries had remained high. About 100 jobs have been shed in the past year.

Turnover at Liberty's store

in Regent Street, London, had fallen 5 per cent, but sales so far this year had picked up by 11 per cent.

The company is opening a branch in Exeter and plans to open two more regional branches during the course of the year. Liberty is closing three out of four shops in America, but it will keep its presence in New York.

Mr Pugh was dismissive of Brian Myerson, the South African entrepreneur who holds a 15 per cent stake in Liberty and who has accused the board of "pedestrian" performance.

The company has not heard from Mr Myerson since February when he made various proposals including the appointment of a new chief executive.



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ANNUAL REPORT 1991

General Accident is an international insurance business with a substantial presence in each of the world's major insurance markets: North America, Pacific, Europe and the UK.

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Free Reserves	£1.37 billion
Technical Reserves	£4.58 billion
Worldwide General Premiums	£3.22 billion
Free Reserves/Technical Reserves	30.0%
Free Reserves/Premium Income	42.6%
Operational Cash Flow	£281 million

General Accident adheres to a traditionally conservative approach in the calculation of its technical reserves and is fully satisfied with the overall level of provisions made to meet future claims. At the end of 1991 these technical reserves amounted to £4.58 billion.

At the same date free reserves were £1.37 billion, not including the value to shareholders of the group's growing life assurance business. Calculated on a conservative basis and excluding any estimate for the value of future profits, General Accident's long term business is valued at almost £400 million.

In his Annual Statement, chairman Lord Airlie says that the decision to recommend an unchanged dividend for 1991 is a recognition of General Accident's continuing financial strength and the positive underlying trends in its underwriting performance following remedial action taken over the past fifteen months.

"The steps we have taken will ensure that, despite the economic situation, we are positioned to achieve sustainable underwriting improvement as the basis for creating long term value for shareholders."

Nelson Robertson, Chief Executive

You can receive a copy of General Accident's latest Annual Report by forwarding the completed coupon to: The Secretary, General Accident plc, Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.

NAME ADDRESS

General Accident plc

WORLD HEADQUARTERS, PITHEAVLIS, PERTH, SCOTLAND PH2 0NH

COMMENT

Vickers hoping for a miracle

The sight of Sir David Plastow, chairman of Vickers, seeking offers for the Roll-Royce Motors subsidiary at the depths of the recession is a sad one. No chairman, especially one of Sir David's calibre, would wish to begin his retirement on such a downbeat note. The time to sell companies with a unique franchise such as Rolls is at the top of the market rather than at a time when there is carnage in the motor industry from Detroit to Tokyo.

The task of finding a buyer or a strong joint venture partner for the world's best-known car maker would have been a great deal easier two years ago when Sir Ron Brierley fought a proxy battle over the de-merger of Rolls. Sir Ron was sent packing by the board with overwhelming backing from institutional shareholders.

Rolls was making handsome profits then and the problems of competing head on with far larger car manufacturers looked less daunting than it does today. As the recession plunged Rolls into heavy losses, the problem of funding future research and new model ranges has become daunting for a group simply too small to cope.

Sir Ron's demerger plan would have put a value on Rolls of about £285 million he strongly believed. Now it appears that Vickers cannot find a bidder prepared to come close to what it thinks is the long term value of Rolls. Vickers will not talk figures, but analysts say the car maker is probably worth £200 million even in today's distressed markets.

For the patriotic Vickers shareholders who urged Sir David to keep Rolls-Royce British at all costs, the prospects are now bleak indeed. Vickers probably needs to find as much as £200 million over the next six years to fund the car development programme. Vickers, which made a £12 million loss last year, is not in a strong bargaining position and Rolls needs a miraculous recovery in its key US market. Vickers will probably find a big brother to take a substantial stake in Rolls. The price may not be attractive.

Bundesbank woes

The Teutonic control the Bundesbank once exercised over German money supply has yielded to galloping growth rates reminiscent of Latin economies at their most wayward. The annual 9.7 per cent surge in March in M3, the broad measure which guides the Bundesbank to future trends in inflation, might suggest that Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, failed to tighten enough with his pre-Christmas rate hike. Having dipped from 9 per cent in January to 8.6 per cent in February, M3 is back close to double the growth the Bundesbank is aiming for.

The initial reaction in the financial markets was to abandon the summer easing scenario. For the more pessimistic prospect of yet higher German interest rates arises. There is, however, a danger that people, especially market folk, are overreacting.

The Bundesbank has attached numerous health warnings to its M3 numbers for the opening months of the year. Unification heavily distorts the figures, as too does the growing use of the mark as a reserve currency against the former Soviet bloc. Bank lending to the private sector is the main motor of M3 surge, in part reflecting nothing more than high short-term interest rates.

The M3 surge will be helpful for Germany at the weekend meeting of the Group of Seven in Washington, as it suggests that the Bundesbank's tight rein has neither killed off activity nor the inflationary threat. Demands for German loosening would be difficult to justify.

The blame heaped on government by Italians could switch to Brussels on the road to devolution, writes Wolfgang Münchau

The distraught owner of a small farm cottage in the Sicilian mountain village of Zafferana made a last desperate effort to draw attention to his plight. The lava of Mount Etna has been slowly approaching the village, and his cottage high up on the mountain became the first building to be hit by the lava flow. Before escaping to safety he wrote a despairing message on one of the cottage walls: *Grazie governo*. Thank you government.

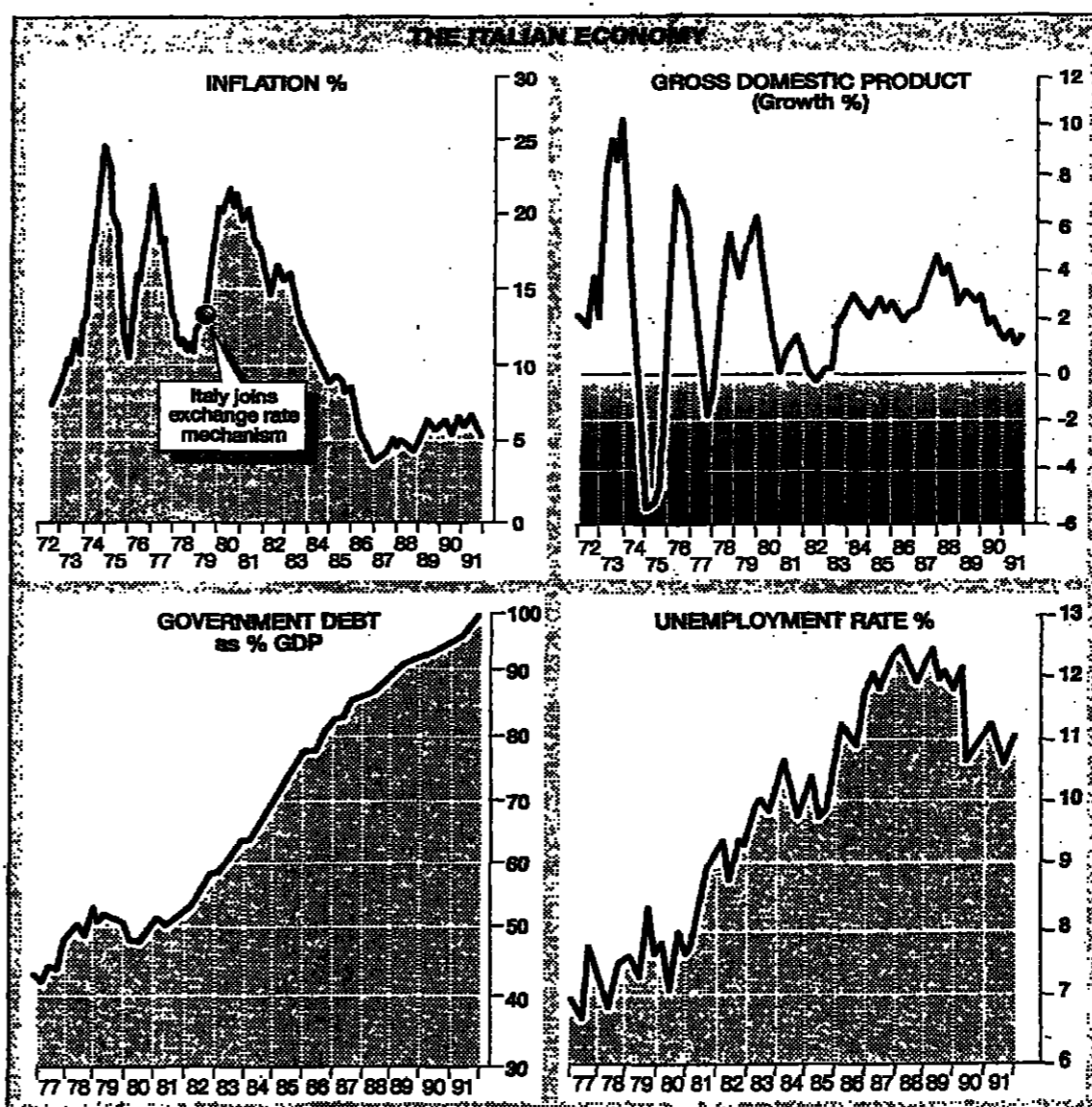
In Italy, the government always carries the blame for the economy, for the Mafia, for their World Cup disappointment, and if the resident of Zafferana is even remotely typical, for natural disasters as well. Complaining about the government is a national pastime. The problem has been that foreigners sometimes take those complaints too seriously and draw the wrong conclusions.

There is a great temptation to overstate the impact of the events of the last few weeks, which witnessed a few disasters in the making beyond the volcanic eruption. The results of this month's general election dealt a blow to the ruling four-party coalition, while an increase in the share of the vote by splinter groups and independence movements promises economic uncertainty.

In Milan, the 1982 Banco Ambrosiano fraud scandal returned to the fore with the six-year jail sentence handed down on Carlo De Benedetti, the chairman of Olivetti. Meanwhile, Italy's leading companies, most notably Fiat, Olivetti and Pirelli, have not yet recovered from sharp profit falls or, in some cases, from losses. There is an air of decay about Italy.

So much for the bad news. Italy can send out rather gloomy signals at times, though the country has consistently confounded its critics. During the eighties, Italians enjoyed a moment of national glory when it overtook Britain in terms of gross domestic product per head of population, a phenomenon known as *il sorpasso*. Italy's GDP growth has declined over the last few years, but recession has so far been avoided.

The statistical mirage of the *sorpasso* was in part based on the inclusion of the black economy into the figures, but the data nevertheless square up with some anecdotal evidence. General living standards in certain regions, such as Lombardy and Tuscany, are higher, at least visibly, than those in many regions of Britain, France and even Ger-



many. Italy's experience in the exchange-rate mechanism has also been good, with inflation, once a perennial problem, falling consistently towards the European average. The annual rate stands at about 5.6 per cent, close to Britain's underlying rate, a remarkable achievement when one considers the price Britain had to pay for bringing its inflation down to this level.

Italy's underlying economy is also fairly robust. Contrary to popular perception, Italians work longer hours than most other Europeans, as many people have more than one job. A prohibitive employment protection law, which virtually precludes the dismissal of workers, has had almost the opposite effect: companies keep small payrolls and employ large numbers of freelancers and subcontractors. A large proportion of the labour market is therefore virtually unregulated.

The glove industry reflects the illogical nature of the Italian economy. Naples is the heart of the sector, yet not a single company is officially registered there. Companies from all over Italy subcontract the work out to mainly self-employed women who work from their homes in the

Naples region. That system may not be endemic to a modern economy, but such old structures bring their own financial benefits. If everybody played by the rules of Italy's stringent labour laws, with their employment protection provisions and the *scala mobile* system of automatic wage indexation, many industries would not have survived.

The great fear, however, is that the relative robustness of industry will not be able to make up for the shortcomings of the political system, which have left the economy in deficit. Pressure for change is mounting, both from the *leghe*, the regional independence movements encouraged by their strong show at the polls, and from the industrial establishment, including Gianni Agnelli, the head of Fiat.

The clamour for reform is also borne from a fear that Italy might be left behind in the process of European economic and monetary union. To qualify for EMU status, Italy must face up to a gigantic task. Inflation must be brought down to within 1.5 per cent of the average of the three countries with the lowest

rate of inflation in the community as set out in the Maastricht treaty. On present performances, this means inflation of about 4 per cent.

Even more importantly, Italy's debt, which amounts to more than its gross domestic product, needs to shrink, as does the annual budget deficit. Whatever policy is adopted, Italy will not be able to meet the budget deficit criteria agreed at Maastricht. Under that deal, a country qualifies for EMU once the annual budget deficit is no higher than 3 per cent of GDP.

In Italy, last year's deficit was about 10.5 per cent of GDP, after a massive budgetary overshoot. Even if a determined government achieves a substantial reduction in the deficit, the 3 per cent Maastricht target will remain out of reach, even by 1997, the earliest date for the introduction of the single currency.

This, however, is not necessarily too much of an obstacle. Germany is also in danger of breaching the target, which its own government insisted on at Maastricht. The cost of unification responsible for such fiscal profligacy might not fall until the second half of the decade, though that might ironically im-

prove the process of European economic convergence, with Italy's rate of inflation and budget deficits falling towards the European average as Germany's rise.

To achieve even those limited improvements, Italy, it is widely recognised, will need to modernise some of its arcane structures. However, given the country's experience with political systems designed to "sort out the mess", Italians are likely to settle for gradual, rather than radical, change.

From a practical point of view, gradualism is all that is needed. The new government's first task will be to pursue sound economic policies, involving gradual deficit reductions over the medium term. This would require subsidy cuts, a kickstart for the long overdue privatisation process and the overhaul of the way in which funds are transferred from one region to another.

The issue of regional transfers is crucial. In 1988, total government spending for the South amounted to 194.1 trillion lire (£92 billion) against tax revenues of 101 trillion lire, leaving a deficit of 93.1 trillion lire. The North and centre, meanwhile, had a surplus of 25.8 trillion lire. Such transfers, if consistently applied, create envy. Worse still, there exists a northern prejudice, rightly or wrongly, that these financial transfers have not been wisely invested. The North has become disillusioned with the South, resulting in the rise of the *leghe*.

Hence the cry for constitutional reform, especially for devolution. Economically, though not politically, one might as well cut Italy in two: a northern and a southern state. The chances are that each region would be better off alone. More realistic would be a devolved federal system, similar to that of America or Germany, with tax raising regional assemblies and stricter limits on the amount of wealth transfers between regions.

There is another strategy behind this, as an Italian government official astutely pointed out. The introduction of a devolved political system combined with the increased European harmonisation and centralisation, might shift some of the responsibilities for Italy's regional policy away from the national government towards the European Community as a whole. There is also a hope that the European Commission would employ sounder criteria on regional assistance than has the Italian government.

However, tight budgets and rising financial demands from eastern Europe render a massive rise in EC regional aid for the *mezzogiorno* unrealistic. The only real option is for the Italians either to continue the policy of futile financial transfers or to reduce them substantially. Whatever the scenario, nothing will prevent the Italians from complaining against whoever runs their country: whether regional or national governments, or indeed Brussels.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Meals on wheels

BROTHERS Albert and Michel Roux, whose catering empire now provides an in-house luncheon service for numerous City institutions, had better be on their guard. For they could soon find themselves facing fierce competition from an unexpected quarter. Economics guru Roger Nightingale, ex-Hoare Govett, who now happily runs an independent one-man operation out of a sublet office suite in a Hays Galleria building occupied by Singaporean broker Sassoon & Co, has, to the surprise of his former colleagues, declared his hand as a gastronome of note. Nightingale, whose wicked sense of humour is often misunderstood, holds monthly "fun lunches" in a hitherto unused dining room at Sassoon & Co. He bought the crockery, cutlery and place mats himself — one or two short of a full set, which adds to the homespun appeal — and this week, at one such lunch, he let slip that he also buys all the food, mostly in Leadenhall market, and prepares it at home. As he presented an impressive menu comprising prawns with peppers, chicken casserole with rice and apple pie, Nightingale explained to his somewhat startled guests that he transports the food into the office in the boot of his small Daihatsu car. "I just put all the seats down, and load up with dishes. It's really not difficult at all," he said.

Much ado...

AFTER upsetting the theatrical world by building an office block on the site of



Shakespeare's Rose Theatre in Southwark. The Imry Group has so far failed to let any of the 157,000 sq ft of space contained therein. The letting agent, Lane Fox, has now added insult to injury by capitalising on the bard's appeal to try to attract attention to Rose Court Building. Yesterday, on the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday, Lane Fox's Alastair Chapman donned a 16th century costume and hired professional lute player David Miller, and sang Shakespearean songs at a luncheon for potential tenants. Such is the level of gimmickry in the property market these days that, although many guests were surprised by the performance, few thought it in poor taste. "It was a very lyrical way of presenting a building," says tenants' agent Richard Posner of the BBP Partnership. "It certainly made a nice change from the usual Mont Blanc pens and freebie wallets."

Glasgow-bound

UNWORTHY comments that the only reason for Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's bid for Midland was so that chairman William Purves could get a free air

ticket to his daughter's wedding tomorrow — at Bowden Church in the Scottish borders — are, it seems, far from accurate. Catriona, one of Purves's four children by his first wife, was once a British Airways senior training manager. Her husband-to-be, David Noy, is a BA general manager. Purves's colleagues say that, free or heavily subsidised air tickets have therefore long been available in the Purves family. They will allow, though, that if his bank's bid succeeds, Purves will take advantage of the opportunity to spend more time with the newly-weds, who will set up home in Glasgow.

Young George

THERE is, it seems, a limit as to how long one can go on supervising one's children. So, at least, thinks Sir George Blunden, former deputy chairman of the Bank of England, and joint deputy chairman of Union Discount. Sir George yesterday announced he was stepping down from Union Discount since, from June, its new chief executive — succeeding Graeme Gilchrist — will be none other than his son, also called George. Blunden junior, aged 40, was previously with discount house Secombe Marshall and, more recently, has been running Warburg Securities' discount arm. He is the eighth George Blunden in an unbroken line, and the name is perpetuated by his own son, George Blunden IX. A family friend said: "They are all very keen on getting into double figures, there is already great pressure on the youngest George, aged nine, to produce George X."

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Seeking the reason for dismissal

From Dr M. Gillibrand
Sir, The letter from Mr R.S. Fraser (Business Letters, April 15) reflects the growing concern of shareholders that directors who are dismissed (or euphemistically are said to have resigned) will be departing with substantial terminal payments.

The response from the IoD (Business Letters, April 17), which tacitly implies that a contractual terminal payment up to a three-year period should apply in all circumstances, does little to allay such concerns.

Surely, at the heart of the matter is the reason for the termination of the contract. Usually the action is in response to the unsatisfactory performance of the company. In such circumstances a dismissal with a terminal payment which ensures its ac-

Banking explained

From Lord Deramore

Sir, On Good Friday my wife received two and I received one copy of a circular letter from the IoD, "personal sector marketing director" of one of the Big Five Banks. It contained a leaflet entitled "Our banking charges explained" and a personal details sheet, which required us to complete a questionnaire and return folded by Freepost. It is easy to appreciate the need of the banks to make every effort to recoup the vast sums they have lost through ill-judged loans to other countries and dubious commercial firms, but we think this communication tells us more about the high street banks than we are required to tell the personal sector marketing director.

We are both sufficiently old to remember a time when the then branch manager of this particular bank was a personal friend, who knew all about his customers and their families and was able to give helpful advice on financial matters. Now it seems we are merely statistics to be sorted in a central computer. The letter states: "Understanding our customers is vital for the development of our products and services."

What products? The advertising material that bombards us endlessly through the post and goes straight into the waste paper basket? The cruises and other gimmicks that are offered with our credit card accounts? We may be simple but all we require of our bankers are that they should keep our money safe, give us a fair rate of interest and courteous treatment by local manager and staff.

Yours truly,
DERAMORE,
Heslington House,
Aislaby, Pickering, N Yorks.

GRE chief received "a small increase"

From the Finance Director, Guardian Royal Exchange
Sir, I read your article (April 23) concerning the salary of Guardian Royal Exchange's chief executive with interest. The fact is that Sid Hopkins only received a small increase — in line with inflation — in July 1991.

The reason for the apparent larger increase is that for the first five months of 1990 he was not chief executive and, therefore, paid a lower salary.

Glass houses

From Mr Owen Travis
Sir, I recollect numerous complaints by "business" over recent years of the inadequate investment horizons set by financial institutions. I now read (Business Letters, April 17), a recommendation from the director of

corporate affairs, Institute of Directors, that they regard directors' contracts of more than three years duration to be "excessive". Those who live in glass houses...
Yours faithfully,
OWEN TRAVIS,
12 Fairfield Way,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex.

Portfolio

From your Portfolio Platinum card, check your share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall gain and check this against the daily dividend. If it is more than you have won, you are ahead. If it is less, you are behind. Your card available when claiming. Details appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Date	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	McAlpine (A)	Building	1992	170	1.0	5.9	29.1
2	Smith (D)	Building	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
3	Progress	Property	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
4	Dunhill	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
5	T & S Stores	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
6	Genzyme Ltd	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
7	Payson Ltd	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
8	Logan	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
9	Manfield	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
10	Mid-Carroll	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
11	Tay Homes	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
12	Electronics	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
13	Dimeson	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
14	Pendragon	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
15	BICC	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
16	P & O Ltd	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
17	Finch Group	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
18	S & U Stores	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
19	Land Sec	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
20	Wickley	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
21	Seaville	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
22	Microfilm Rep	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
23	Chaffin	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
24	Bar & W A	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
25	Tipstock	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
26	IMI	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
27	Wesall	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
28	Wemough	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
29	Leasing (I)	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
30	Allied-Lyons	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
31	Black-Johnson	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
32	Talbot Chem	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
33	St James P	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
34	Central TV	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
35	Cookson	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
36	Gerrard Nat	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
37	Br Vita	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
38	Lockinge	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
39	Salisbury J	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
40	BAT	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
41	Carroll	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
42	Independent	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3
43	Vesta Chem	Drugs	1992	120	1.0	8.3	14.3

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Please add in account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gain for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

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There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

High Low Company Price Div Yield P/E

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Late fall in shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 6. Dealings end today. Settlement day May 5. Share prices are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price Div Yield P/E

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

DAILY DIVIDEND

£4,000

Claims required for +53 points

Claims should ring 0254-53272

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

INFOTECH TIMES

The days of buildings cluttered with miles of computer cable links may be coming to an end. Ken Young reports on the cordless revolution

Retuning to the wireless network

If you've ever tripped over one of the many cables that dangle from most office technology, you may be pleased to hear that the days of cable could be numbered — thanks to the development of "wireless networks".

Wireless networks, most of which have been developed in North America during the past five years, link computers by means of radio rather than copper or fibre optic cable, just as cordless telephones use a radio linkup between phone and wall socket.

The most common application of this emerging technology is for linking computers in office networks. Typically, each computer requires a special conversion that includes an internal card and external radio antenna costing about £1,500 a personal computer. This compares with about £300 to connect each PC in a standard wired network.

Despite the increased cost of a wireless network, many IT planners believe such networks will grow in use because they can be installed with little of the under-floor/ceiling wiring that is usually required.

Geoff Vincent, a senior consultant for the PA Consulting Group believes cordless systems have great potential. "Wireless networking is a key topic," he says. "Demand is likely to grow as we see increased use of laptop and notebook com-

puters and computing and communications starts to merge."

The most immediate benefit of a wireless network is that moving the network becomes much more manageable. An obvious application is in retail environments, where cash tills are often moved many times a year because of store redesign.

ICL, the computer manufacturer, has installed a trial network of 40 cash tills at a Marks & Spencer store in west London. Each till is fitted with a Radiolink unit manufactured by US based California Microwave. M&S says that the tills have been operating for four months without losing a single transaction.

About 20 wireless networking trials are now taking place in Britain. Carolyn George, managing director of Chascom, which supplies a system known as Arlan, says that several blue chip companies and government bodies are running test networks involving two, four and six terminals.

"The tests are proving that wireless networking is not a niche product but can be useful in a range of different environments," she says. Suppliers are also said to be encouraged by the fact that clear standards and agreed frequency ranges for such systems are finally emerging after years of discussion.

Could wireless networks replace existing PC networks? Critics say

that despite their benefits, many wireless systems are too slow because the data rates are up to ten times slower. The wireless suppliers reply that existing systems rarely operate at maximum speeds and that the difference is therefore negligible.

So far, three wireless systems are available in Britain — Chascom's Arlan, Radiolink from California Microwave and Infralink from BICC. By the end of the year, there will probably be half a dozen systems on the market.

The lone European contribution is being developed by Italy's Olivetti Sistel. Olivetti's system differs from North American offerings in that it is based on the digital European cordless telecommunications standard (DECT) which was originally developed for cordless telephone systems.

But with a number of different systems available, how will buyers select from those available? Wireless networks are compared using three main criteria: the speed at which data can be transferred, the distance the radio links can cope with without data loss (this varies between 100ft and 800ft), and the ability of the system to cope with obstructions such as walls, ceilings and partitions.

Performance depends on what transmission technique is being used with suppliers offering DECT, infra-red, microwave and spread



Space-saver: Geoff Vincent, of PA Consulting, with the radio transmitter that can communicate between office computers

spectrum technology (SST), where signals are spread across a range of frequencies.

Suppliers admit that cost will be the biggest barrier to sales. Paul Clifton, NCR's marketing manager, says: "Despite trials in the UK, we need the European, Far East and Australasian markets to open up before you will see any real economies of scale."

He says that exploiting overseas markets is difficult when the product has to be specified to meet the frequency range allocated for its use

in each country. There is also general acceptance that for the moment wireless systems are "niche" products, rather than a replacement for current wired systems.

According to Tom Goddard, managing director, Telecom Systems, suppliers of Radiolink, the main application will be where a temporary system is required "or where flexibility is paramount".

Despite slow data rates, low awareness, and high prices, the future looks good for such systems.

Existing suppliers are seeking to develop double the data rates they now offer and a new European standard for high speed wireless networking, which promises speeds ten times greater, is expected to be released by 1995.

The idea of cordless systems is not restricted to computers either. But perhaps the idea of a wireless office needs the endorsement of a large computer manufacturer such as IBM before it will be taken more seriously.

Of the giants, Apple Computer

seems to be taking the early initiative. It says it is developing a network based on what it calls "spontaneous computing", in which users can move from office to office and from building to building with portable or "notebook" computers that connect with the in-house network as and when required via radio links.

Apple is now waiting for the US Federal Communications Commission to decide whether radio frequencies should be allocated for such systems.

Lifesaver link will watch the yachts

When Chay Blyth pioneered the idea of racing the "wrong way" round the world in 1972, the world at large had to rely on his infrequent and often broken radio broadcasts to have any idea of his position and performance.

This year, followers of Blyth's British Steel Challenge can rely on a newly developed satellite tracking system to provide instantaneous reports of all ten yachts as the 120 crews battle against the winds and currents to be first around Cape Horn and back to their starting point at Southampton.

The 27,000-mile yacht race provides the first global test for a system developed by BT to track valuable cargoes across oceans and continents.

BT's development engineers have married the network of American military satellites that make up the global positioning system (GPS), which provided the pin-point navigation accuracy for the Allied forces during the Gulf war, with the Inmarsat-C low-speed data transmission service available through the International Maritime Satellite Organisation.

The C-Sat system, as BT calls its service, not only provides positioning accuracy to within 50 metres, but can pass reliable signals back and forth between the tracked and the trackers.

This allows staff at headquarters, for instance, to monitor the exact position, bearing and speed of their ship, and follow its course minute-by-minute if necessary, on a computerised "road map" or chart display.

In the case of the British Steel fleet, the BT system will pick up the position of each yacht automatically at pre-set times. However, the race organisers also have the ability to initiate extra fixes to monitor any close-fought duels such as those expected around Cape Horn and Good Hope.

Thanks also to the Inmarsat-C part of the system, crews have the ability to communicate with the outside world, irrespective of the levels of propagation that blocked out Chay Blyth's radio transmissions in the Southern Ocean for days at a time, by sending and receiving electronic messages via the same satellite link.

Satellite tracking can keep a constant eye on round the world sailors

This service was proved last year by Josh Hall, the British competitor in last year's BOC singlehanded round the world race. Mr Hall, who suffered a dislocated knee midway between Cape Town and Sydney, used the system to transmit his graphic accounts of the voyage published in *The Times*, directly from his small yacht, *Spirit of Ipswich*.

Unlike the large "puffball" domes that shroud the global-balanced transmitters fitted on ships to provide satellite telephone links, the on-board equipment for BT's C-Sat

ional boundaries, will be able to use the C-Sat service to track bullion runs across continents on computer-generated maps that can zoom in to pinpoint a vehicle's exact street location.

With the exception of a small area surrounding the north and south poles, the satellite signal flow is uninterrupted by cloud or terrain — apart from tunnels — and will operate just as accurately from the depths of Siberia as it will in the middle of Middlesbrough.

Another important point about the C-Sat service is the safety cover the satellite service provides.

Eight years ago the British yachtsman capsized soon after rounding Cape Horn during a record-breaking attempt to beat the best clipper ship time from New York to San Francisco.

His trimaran was fitted with an early French satellite tracking system, which took nine hours to alert the outside world of his predicament.

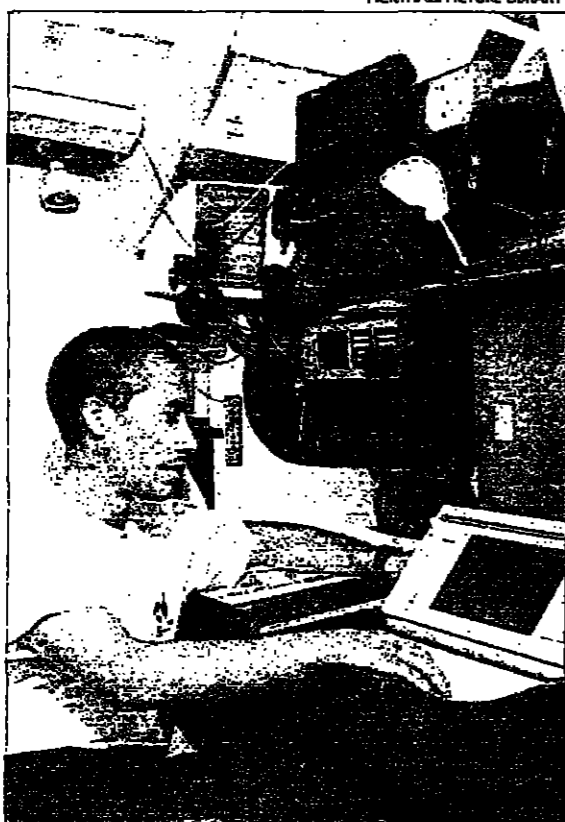
"I pressed the panic button as soon as we flipped over," he recalls, "but I never knew whether anybody had picked up the distress signals until a Chilean naval plane spotted us the next day. By then, we had been sitting for 19 hours in the freezing waters that were washing through the upturned hull."

Not only will the C-Sat service provide an immediate alert in an emergency, but it will continue to signal the yacht's position, and provide the two-way message links with the rest of the fleet that will give Mr Blyth and his race organisers the ability to coordinate a prompt rescue operation.

An example of this came last January during the British Cape Horn kayak expedition led by John and Rebecca Ridgway. Nigel Dennis, the lead canoeist, contracted blood poisoning, which would undoubtedly have led to his death had the team not carried the satellite link.

It allowed the Ridgways to contact Mr Dennis's doctor in Anglesey in Wales for direct advice, then call on the Chilean authorities for the medicines that saved his life, and the expedition.

BARRY PICKTHALL



Instant feedback: Josh Hall transmitted graphic accounts of his voyage in *Spirit of Ipswich* last year

service is small and light enough to fit inside a briefcase.

The twin aerials linking the satellite services are mounted unobtrusively on the stern of the yachts and linked to a standard personal computer, sited in the nav-station. This in turn can be connected to the yacht's instrumentation to provide course, wind bearing, temperature and speed at the time of each plot.

In the case of a valuable cargo, the system can just as easily monitor the speed, bearing and fuel consumption of a ship and temperatures within its refrigerated holds.

In the near future, land-based fleets of security vehicles, which at present rely on sophisticated terrestrial tracking systems set within nat-

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Facing an X-ray future

Jane Bird reports
on a pilot system
allowing computer
storage of X-rays
which could
improve diagnosis
and even save lives
in an emergency

Hammersmith Hospital will soon be installing jukeboxes, but they will not be blaring out the latest hits to queuing patients. The jukeboxes will contain more than a million medical images created by X-rays, computer tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance, angiography, radio isotopes and ultrasound. At the touch of a button, doctors will be able to summon the images to computer workstations throughout the hospital.

The jukeboxes are part of Britain's first hospital-wide electronic imaging system using software known as Pacs — Picture Archiving and Communication System. It is being installed as part of a £11 million computerisation programme at the Hammersmith hospital, which also includes the administration of patient records, pathology results and outpatient information.

There will be 138 computer workstations in consulting rooms, wards, operating theatres and outpatient clinics. The hospital will be one of the first in the world to computerise X-ray images. Instead of converting these to film for viewing on a lightbox, it will collect them on a reusable phosphor plate. The images will then be passed through an electronic reader which will pick up the data and store it digitally.

Doctors will be able to view the X-ray images on screen within two minutes, instead of having to wait up to an hour for them to be processed — a speed improvement which could save lives in emergencies. Another advantage cited is that it should put an end to lost images, says Dr James Mosley, the hospital's director of information technology.

At the moment, X-rays are kept in cardboard envelopes which can easily be mislaid as they are moved about the hospital. Up to 15 per



Eye to eye: Dr James Mosley, director of information technology at Hammersmith hospital, examines an X-ray image

cent go missing and have to be retaken, Dr Mosley says. "This is time-consuming and expensive. It is very frustrating for medical staff, and for patients who are exposed to unnecessary doses of radiation".

Under the new system, the X-ray images will be permanently available with a few key-strokes, rather than having to be physically moved from one location to another.

The on-screen X-ray images should improve diagnosis because it is possible to sharpen outlines, enhance contrast and zoom in on areas of special interest.

Doctors in different locations will be able to view the same image on their screens and discuss the case without having to schedule physical meetings. A surgeon in the operating theatre might be on-line to the radiology department, with other relevant consul-

ants able to join in. Several screens can be linked.

Despite the huge capacity of the optical discs — each one can contain more than 10 billion items of data — the inclusion of X-rays will place heavy demands on the



Pioneering pictures: the Pacs system in action

system. An average chest X-ray contains six million pieces of information. Sophisticated data compression techniques will be used to halve this.

The two 100-disc jukeboxes being installed at the hospital should have enough space for three years' worth of images. As they become full, discs containing older images will be archived. They can be stored for at least 20 years without the data becoming contaminated.

Dr Mosley is digitising the past year's X-rays for transfer onto the system.

Though any image can be selected from the jukeboxes and summoned on screen within two minutes, this can represent an unacceptable delay to a busy doctor with a queue of patients waiting to be seen. So the system will be linked to the hospital adminis-

tration software which gives it advance warning of which outpatients are expected in each department. Their scans, along with those of all in-patients, are copied from

the optical discs and held on magnetic disc at the central computer — a technique that will cut the selection time to a few seconds.

Hard-copy back-ups will not be kept at the hospital — its lightboxes, X-ray film and cardboard envelopes will be thrown out. Back-up discs will be held instead, meaning that it is essential that the computers should be reliable 24 hours a day throughout the year.

In order to do this, the hospital has chosen so-called "fault tolerant" hardware for the administrative system that incorporates two main processors, so that if one fails the other should take over without any significant interruption.

Hammersmith is one of three pilot sites in the world introducing hospital-wide use of the system for digitised X-rays, although a few hospitals use it for other types of scan. If a Hammersmith patient needs to go elsewhere for treatment, their electronic images can either be printed out or transmitted via a telephone line in the few cases where other hospitals have suitable equipment.

Installation of the system is due to be started in the autumn and completed by September 1993.

Bargain-hunters on the Continent

Personal computer buyers have keyed into the low prices of hardware abroad, particularly in Germany

Question: if you want a low-cost computer, where is the best place to go? Tottenham Court Road, New York or Hong Kong? Answer: none of these. Try Dusseldorf, Munich or Stuttgart.

In the past year, prices of personal computers and peripherals have fallen dramatically in Germany. Not so long ago, one of Europe's most expensive places to buy a computer, it has now become one of the cheapest.

One reason is a sudden recognition of the fact that personal computers have turned into a commodity market. Over the past year, retail chains have sprung up throughout Germany specialising in low-cost personal computers.

The companies import PC components from the Far East and assemble them locally, adding their own badge. Hefty differences between their prices and those of more traditional dealers mean that the normally brand-conscious Germans will give them a try.

Another reason for lower prices has been the introduction of direct sales techniques where, just as in the United States and increasingly in Britain, buy direct has become the battle cry of cost-conscious computer consumers. When buying computers by post, however, Germans have the advantage of being able to pay the postman or courier cash on delivery.

Already some British computer buyers are starting to cotton on to the savings that can be made from a quick buying trip to the Continent. An office standard 386SX/25 MHz VGA colour machine with two floppy drives and a 105 megabyte hard disc may cost less than £800 — more than £400 cheaper than in Britain, and the German price includes local VAT, whereas the British one does not.

Not only are PCs cheaper, so are peripherals. Escom, one of Germany's leading budget direct sales companies, is selling a 9,600 bit per second modem for around £100. Similar specification modems advertised in British publications can cost more than £500.

Because such sales can be made by post, continental shopping is likely to be a threat to British suppliers. Buying computers by

mail order has taken off worldwide, especially in the United States where one in five computers is bought in this way — and a specialist publishing business has grown up with it.

A pioneer of this new sector of publishing is New York-based Ziff Davis, which publishes *Computer Shopper*, the biggest direct-mail computer magazine in the world, now five years old and regularly putting out 1,000-page plus issues. The company launched two titles in Europe last November — *PC Direct* in Britain and *PC Direkt* in Germany. Both have already reached 500-page issues.

"Direct buying by Europeans from US suppliers has been with us for some time," says David Craver, managing director of Ziff in the UK, who estimates that about 10 per cent of the advertising space in *PC Direct* is taken by American suppliers.

With the opening-up of the European market, he believes that French and German suppliers will also begin to advertise to British customers.

Howard Meredith, an analyst at Romtec, a research firm, says: "Medium and large companies are now more computer-literate and no longer have to rely on a dealer's expertise." Customers are also finding that the after-sales support of direct sales organisations can beat that of many dealers, he adds. Buying internationally would be the next logical step.

The one exception to what looks like becoming a booming cross-border mail-order market is likely to be computer software. For a start, German prices for software are, if anything, higher than in Britain. More fundamental than this could be the language barrier.

"You may be able to buy a car much cheaper on the Continent, but you may well find its left-hand steering wheel annoying on UK roads," says Mr Craver. "Similarly, if you buy a software package in Germany, will you get by with all of the manuals and maybe even the screens in German?"

PETER PURTON

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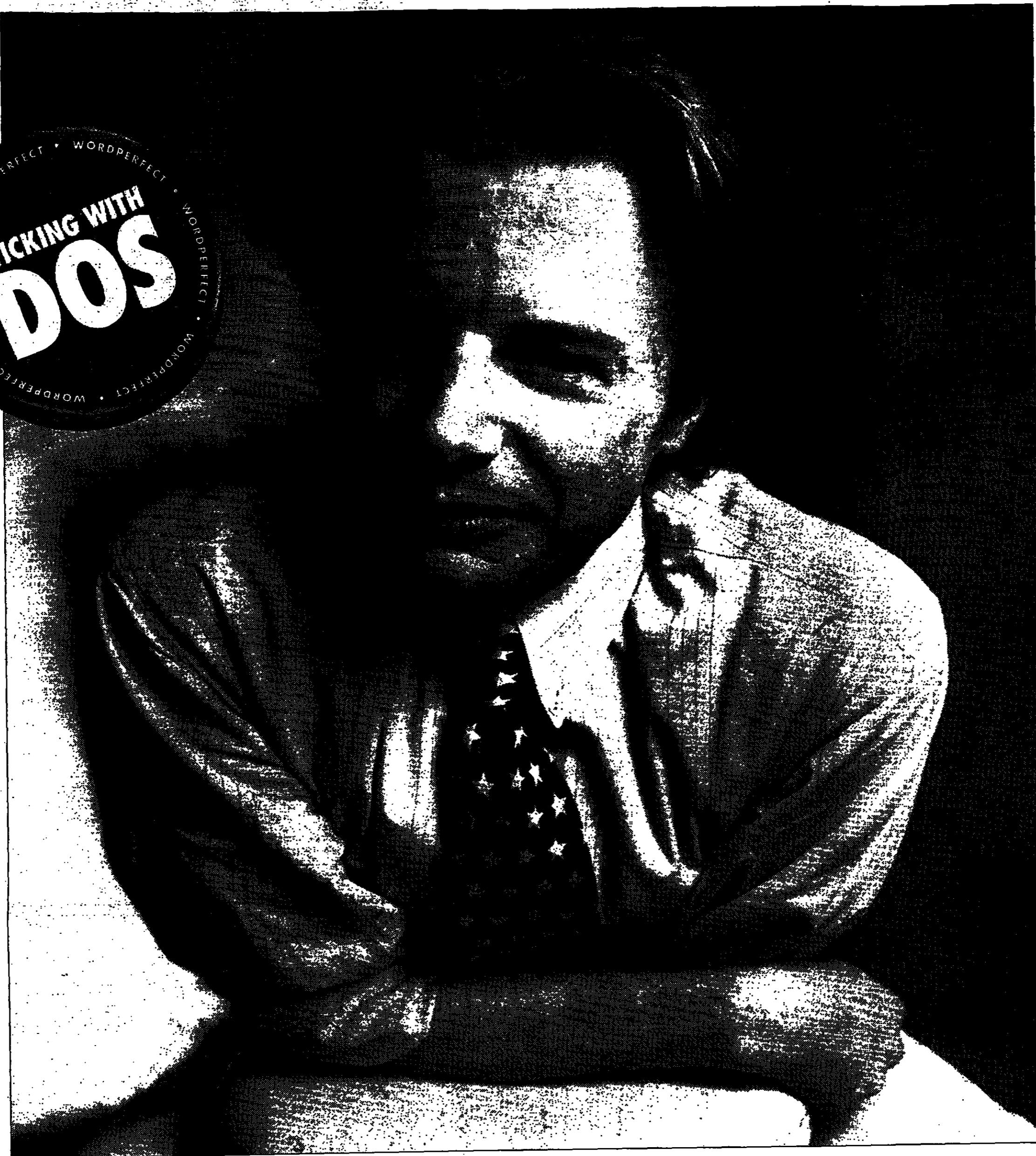
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Umen Bewtra heads a company producing work overseas. Much of London Underground's new timetable was developed in Calcutta

Teleworking starts anew

A 1980s concept has been revived by software manufacturers. Pat Sweet reports

The 1980s introduced us to the idea of the teleworker, those people who realised that by equipping their homes with personal computers, fax machines and telecommunications links, they could manage a full day's work without ever leaving the house.

Instead of battling through the rush-hour traffic every day to get to the office, teleworkers would capitalise on the freedom that new technology gave them to live anywhere in the country, no matter how remote, and conduct their business electronically.

The concept has taken a fall recently as predictions that millions of us would soon be teleworking look less and less likely to happen in the near future. Computer companies, however, are starting to turn a slightly different version of the idea into a truly worldwide concept in the hope of eradicating two of the problems that commonly dog the software industry — high labour costs and a shortage of vital skills.

Several companies, including BIS Information Systems, Oracle and Electronic Data Systems have opened software development centres in Ireland, where there are government incentives designed to attract employers to the area, as well as a good supply of highly qualified young people.

Others are already working further afield. London Underground's new £200,000 tube timetabling system, for instance, has been written by CMC, a Calcutta-based software house that won the contract in open competition against several British suppliers.

Third Wave Systems is another company whose software developments are handled abroad, either in Dublin or via its Indian subsidiary. Third Wave is undertaking a £4 million project to develop a new loans system, which will take a team of 54 people two and a half years to complete, for Britannia Building Society.

As is common in such projects, the initial stages covering activities such as requirements definition, analysis and high level design, are carried out in Britain by a team flown from India. Once the specification has been signed off and the amount of client involvement drops, however, the rest of the work moves to the development centre, wherever that may be.

Such an approach is known as "offshore programming". Typically, between 50 and 80 per cent of the total project work will take place somewhere far away from the actual client site.

With clients and developers sometimes thousands of miles apart, communications can be a problem, particularly in countries such as India, where telecommunications infrastructure is patchy. Most companies resort to dedicated leased circuits, which are more reliable and of higher quality than the public network.

In many instances, however, the five and a half hour time difference between the two countries can be turned to advantage. Britannia Build-

ing Society, for instance, has direct satellite links from Third Wave's Delhi offices with its own machines, which are used for development work during slack overnight periods in the UK.

Offshore suppliers also provide a UK-based liaison managers on projects to handle queries and specification changes, as well as training British staff to support the system once delivered.

Enthusiasts for offshore programming say it often leads to more disciplined developments, with everybody taking greater care in defining requirements and paying close attention to the signing-off stages on projects, since opportunities for sudden changes of mind are more limited. The other big advantage is, of course, price. On average, software development in India is at least half the cost of equivalent work in Britain, mainly because salary rates are so much lower.

Quality remains high. India's 200,000 computing professionals include many familiar with the latest techniques and technologies, including programming languages such as C++ and Unix, which is now the Indian government's standard operating system. Productivity levels on some projects can be 150 per cent above those normally achieved in Britain.

Having demonstrated the benefits of offshore programming for medium to large scale software development, suppliers are now examining new mar-

kets, such as handling all the conversion work required when companies move to open systems.

"This work can be done easily and quickly in India and we can even test locally," says A. P. Lalshumanan, CMC's head of European operations. "Often existing systems have no documentation and the person who wrote them has left. Trying to bring order to this situation without spending any more money on the system is a horror story for some companies."

Third Wave, meanwhile, has started to develop its own products abroad. Its marketing information database, Mind, which has recently been bought by the Woolwich Building Society and First Direct, was written in both of its overseas development centres and sold into Britain.

"Technology has moved on so much that distance is less of a handicap now. The world is smaller in all senses, and we believe offshore programming is the right way forward if we want to attack the global market," says Umen Bewtra, the managing director. In particular, it has allowed Third Wave to break into the US market, where British companies have traditionally suffered from higher labour costs than their American counterparts. Developing products and services in low-cost areas such as India makes the move into the US more economic.

The company has also just set up a sales and marketing office in France, with the aim of selling its offshore services in Europe and has been evaluating ways of setting up another software development centre in Russia.

Hi-tech mailboxes need to be simpler

Getting hold of the right person at the right time is not always easy. They might be out to lunch, not returning your telephone messages or simply engaged. Such a frustrating process can now be solved electronically.

Electronic mail is improving, but has yet to reach its full potential

As its name implies, email — electronic mail — is the computerised equivalent of the traditional postal process. Email services control the transfer of messages between sender and recipient, charge for usage time and measure the amount of information being transferred.

Although there are 14 million electronic mailboxes in use worldwide, part of a market growing at an estimated 40 per cent a year, most business executives do not need to communicate in this sort of way. For the seasoned traveller, however, who cannot work effectively away from the office without a regular update of information, or the professional whose business depends on a regular supply of information from the field back to base, email is proving a boon.

But as more and more business users are catching the email bug, they are also discovering the technical headaches that can be involved.

The process of typing a letter, then electronically posting it should be simple. It ought to be possible, for instance, to send mail directly from the program you happen to be working in at the time, without having to leave it.

It isn't. Until now, software suppliers have designed their own proprietary links, or APIs (application programming interfaces) to email products.

Consequently, a software program designed for one type of email system cannot easily be made to run on a second system.

A spreadsheet or word processing user creates a document, has to quit the program, then go into a second email software program to send that document to another col-

league. The appearance of a new initiative, by Lotus Development, which is aimed at creating an open email standard, could, however, mean that this tedious and long-winded process is about to change.

The open messaging interface (OMI) specification, announced late last year, was originally designed to help software developers write email applications for different manufacturers' computers. Specifications in OMI form the bedrock of a new range of software products referred to

likely to open the door to another emerging breed of software called groupware. Working in conjunction with email, it is based on the principle that the structure of work is really done on a network of subtle and informal relationships, not in formal channels or hierarchies. It is also emerging as four key technologies are starting to come together — the graphical user interface (GUI). Traditionally, applications for computers have been pigeonholed into camps such as spreadsheets, word processing and graphics. Work rarely falls into such neat categories but is done as a process, not as a series of automated, unconnected tasks.

Today's "compound document" contains information from different sources and users should be able to work with a number of packages simultaneously and have access to them from inside the document they happen to be working with at the time.

Essentially groupware is the software glue that, in an ideal world, ties these technologies together by enabling people, no matter where they are or what they do, to create, organise, access and share information (such as text, spreadsheets, graphics and scanned images) using personal computers.

Though a lot of groupware licenses have been sold, it is still not clear how the software will develop. Groupware answers many of the questions not answered by previous types of software but, by itself, it is not enough. Groupware removes only some of the technology barriers to successful office-based computer projects.

Historically, this is an area in which many organisations have found difficulty. Only by analysing these issues can they have any confidence that technology is being considered for the benefits it brings to the business as a whole.

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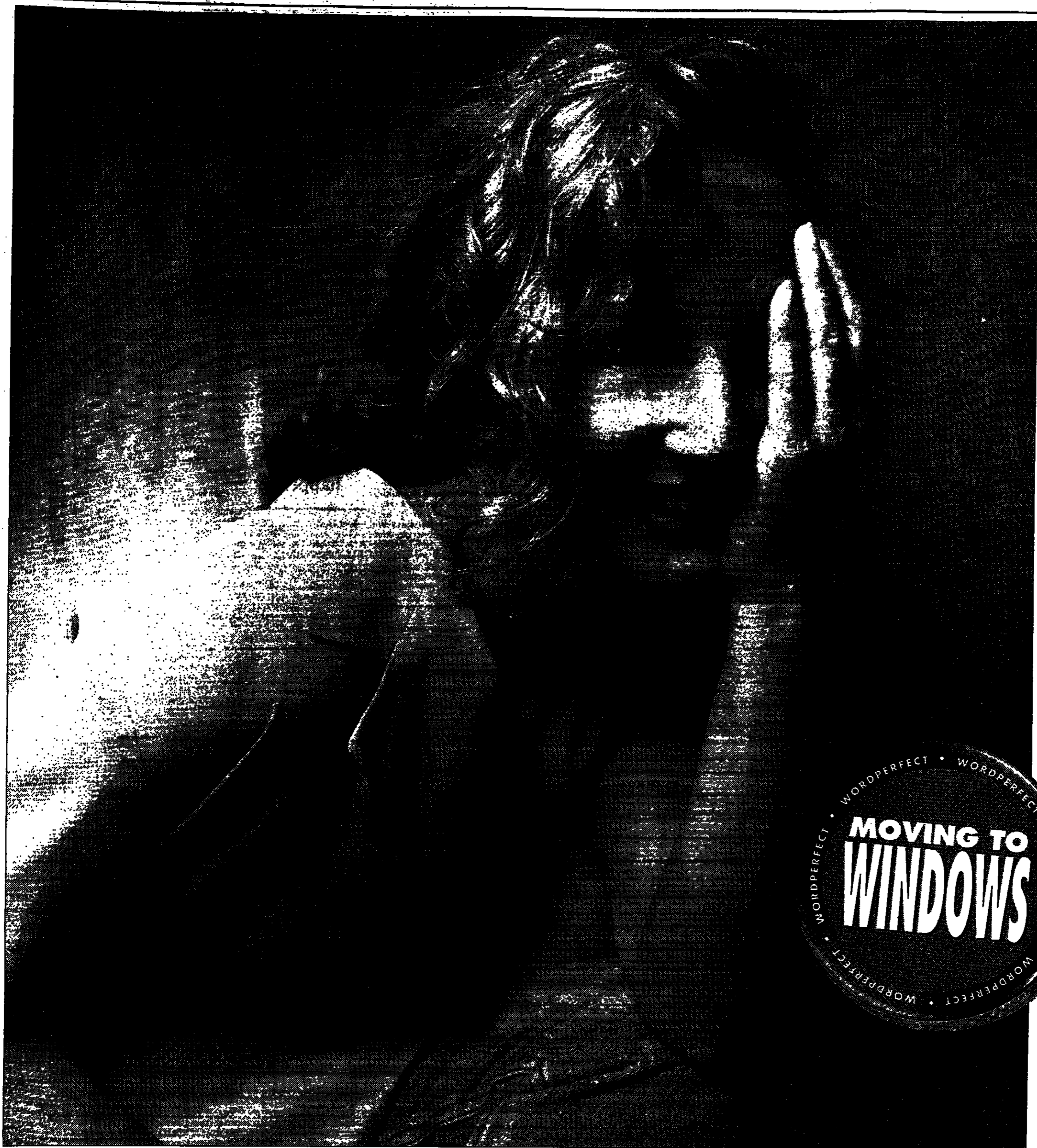
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✎ I was so excited about Windows I couldn't wait to get the last of the DOS programs off my hard disk. Except I kept starting documents in Windows, only to give up and go back to WordPerfect®. ✂ Then when WordPerfect released their Windows version, it was like going home for me. ⇄ In theory, one Windows program should feel pretty much like the next one. ⌘ In practice, the only one that feels right to me is WordPerfect.

WordPerfect

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Compact discs set to go interactive

A new CD player will display video-clips, text, graphics and animation — but at a price. George Cole views the future

A home entertainment system that could eventually lead to video programmes recorded on compact disc rather than tape will be introduced to Britain next week. The system — Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I) — may one day even replace the home video-recorder, although it will at first be promoted as a multimedia format that stores sound, video-clips, text, graphics and animation.

The discs can be played on a special deck, which plugs into a home television and stereo system and is operated by a remote control handset. The machine will also play music CDs.

"CD-I will offer consumers a new entertainment format: interactivity," says Gaston Basciano, director of Philips interactive media systems. "Users will control what they see and hear on a television screen."

The difficulty for Philips is that many people have little experience of interactive systems; most of it is limited to cash dispensers or point-of-information kiosks in a shop or building society.

Last year, Commodore, the computer company, introduced a rival multimedia system called CDTV, but it was a commercial failure. However, Philips is optimistic about CD-I's prospects because several Japanese consumer electronics companies, including Sony, Panasonic, JVC, Pioneer and Yamaha, support the format. It is also backed by leading publishers and software companies such as Time-Life, Warner and Bertelsmann. Philips claims that CD-I has sold well in the United States since its October launch.

CD-I is just one of several CD systems due to be offered in Britain this year. This month Sony will introduce the Data Discman, a hand-held "electronic book" which plays miniature CDs, storing up to 100,000 pages of text and simple

graphics. Selling for about £350, the Data Discman will display information on a small LCD screen.

This summer, Kodak will market Photo CD, a format allowing users to store up to 100 photographs on a CD and watch them on the television. Photo CD discs will also play on CD-I decks. Philips and

Nintendo, the Japanese computer games company, is developing low-cost CD players and games discs that will be compatible with CD-I.

In Japan, JVC and Sega, a games company, sell WonderMega, a multi-entertainment machine, which plugs into a television and plays computer games stored on a CD.

The first European CD-I decks will sell for about £600 and discs will cost between £15 and £60. Philips expects to have about 40 CD-I titles at the launch next Monday, and will then introduce up to five new titles a month.

The discs will be a mix of information, education and entertainment titles. Some will teach users how to play a musical instrument or take photographs. Other discs will be designed to help children read and count.

CD-I will be initially sold in London and the South-East, and the format is due to reach the rest of Britain by late summer. Philips also plans to display CD-I at shopping centres around Britain this summer. However, these early ma-

chines will not offer a new CD-I feature — full-motion video.

When work started on CD-I more than five years ago, designers thought that it would be impossible to store moving video on a CD-I disc because it uses up a huge amount of data. At a recent conference in San Francisco, Philips demonstrated video-clips taken from a CD-I disc and explained that the discs can store more than an hour of motion video. The company also pointed out that in the United States, it costs software companies about \$3 to duplicate a VHS tape, five times the cost of pressing a CD. Unlike video-

discs, CD-I discs do not wear out and do not suffer from the split in television standards, which means that a video-tape bought in the US will not play in a European video-recorder.

A CD-I disc will play on any CD-I deck anywhere in the world. Warner Home Video predicts that this year the British video software market will sell about 50 million pre-recorded tapes, worth £400 million. Video rentals will account for another £500 million. Philips is therefore developing the microchips so the decks can play motion video-discs.

The new-style CD-I machines will appear later this year and existing owners will be able to buy an upgrade cartridge for their CD-I players.

Several music companies are planning to launch CD-I music videos and others are developing short "interactive movie" discs, which will allow users to decide how the plot develops.

At present, CD-I discs cannot store full-length films, which can last for two or three hours, but Nimbus Records, a British company based in Monmouth, is developing a high-density CD that will store four times more information than existing discs.

"Films on a CD are clearly going to happen," says Barry Humphreys, Warner Home Video's sales director. "We look forward to releasing our VHS titles on disc. But given the penetration of video-recorders around the world — nearly three quarters of UK households have at least one VCR — films on CD will not form a significant market for a while."

Next year, Kodak will introduce Photo CD Interactive, a system that will enable home users to produce their own CDs. The discs will consist of photographs, text, speech and music supplied by the consumer. The company argues that the service will be ideal for wedding and family discs. These new discs will be produced at a photographic laboratory equipped with a special Photo CD production system, but future discs may be made at home.

Companies such as Philips, Meridian and Kenwood already produce professional recordable CD (CD-R) players costing several thousands of pounds. These machines work like a tape deck, except that the information is recorded on a blank CD costing about £20.

Though it is technically possible to develop a CD-I player that can record as well as play back video pictures, such machines are unlikely to appear in the near future because of copyright objections from film and music companies. The days of the home video-tape recorder nevertheless seem numbered.



A CD-I player: CD-I — Compact Disc Interactive — may one day replace the video-tape recorder

IBM price surprise

IBM has announced a powerful but relatively low-cost computer that could compete for customers with the company's own multimillion pound mainframes.

Mainframes and associated equipment are IBM's most profitable product, a market the company once jealously guarded from competition by its other divisions.

Mainframes are favoured by such heavy-duty computer users as banks and insurance companies. The fact that IBM appears to be pitting the new £32,000 computer against mainframes shows how the world's largest computer maker is changing its ways. The technology in the new machine will eventually find its way into the personal computers that IBM and Apple Computer will make under their alliance announced last year.

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eration on the project was part of an agreement made when NEC bought a 4.7 per cent stake in Bull last July.

Analysts said that cooperation would be limited to software development because NEC is more advanced than Bull in mainframe systems and would need no help in that area.

The new mainframe would be more powerful than any developed by either of the companies and would be aimed mainly at European and American markets.

Super view THE European Community wants to spend 850 million Ecu (about £605 million) in incentives to promote its HD-Mac system of high-definition television.

Filippo Maria Pandolfi and Jean Dondelinger, EC Commissioners, said the money, if approved by an EC ministerial council, would be used to help broadcasters, cable operators and programme producers switch to the new system.

The aid package is part of the EC's attempt to introduce the so-called D2-Mac European standard for satellite broadcasts, which is supposed to result in a better picture in a wide-screen, 16:9 width-to-height format.

D2-Mac is a stage half-way to the full European HD-Mac standard and has twice as many horizontal lines across the picture tube, which will eventually generate a pin-sharp image of high-definition television (HDTV).

Star theft A LOS Angeles rocket scientist has been sentenced to 30 months in prison and fined \$250,000 for selling classified US software used in the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) weapons programme to Japanese and South African organisations.

A federal judge allowed Ronald Hoffman to remain free on \$1 million bail, pending appeal. Prosecutors said Japanese companies and South African agents paid Mr Hoffman about \$750,000 between 1986 and 1990 for the technology, which Mr Hoffman had claimed was not covered by US arms export restrictions.

The software is used to research and develop Star Wars programmes. The project is aimed at creating an anti-missile space shield to detect missile launchings and destroy incoming rockets.

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If only they had a proper brain inside

Nick Nuttall reports on progress in developing neural networks

British Telecom researchers have been experimenting with a computer system that can correctly distinguish a cyclist from a pedestrian on a railway crossing snapped by a surveillance camera.

Logica of Cambridge, and London Underground, have been harnessing a similar advanced computing system to estimate from video images the concentration of passengers on a platform. With 97 per cent accuracy, the system has shown itself superior to conventional computing methods.

A further example of this form of computing is being tested at the intensive care unit of Southampton General Hospital. It has been linked with a monitor that records such vital signs as pulse rate, heartbeat and blood pressure in the hope that the computer will be able to tell more accurately whether a patient is in danger, thereby reducing the number of false alarms.

These experimental systems are all examples of neural network computing — systems that try to mimic the workings of the human brain — and the subject of a new report by the government's Advisory Council on Science and Technology.

A working group of the council's emerging technologies committee says neural networks are fast coming of age. "Neural computing has reached the stage of maturity and promise where full and

careful consideration of means to ensure its successful exploitation is both timely and vital," argues the working group, chaired by Leonard Maunders, professor of mechanical engineering at Newcastle University.

Japan, where companies and research institutes have already devised a neural computing chip and where Hitachi plans to launch a commercial neurocomputer within three years, is playing a leading international role in developing the technology.

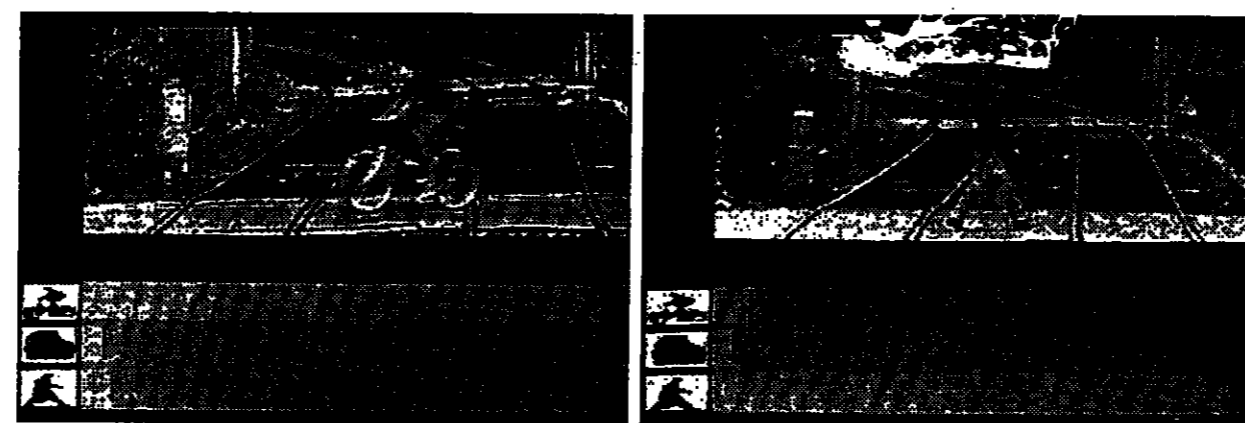
Britain, which has a small but eager research base, is well placed to exploit neural network computing within national and European-led programmes such as Esprit, says the report.

Since the single market will deprive them of the traditional customs-clearance tasks, many agents have decided to close down, with the loss of more than 1,000 staff around the Port of Dover alone, throwing the task back on the traders, whose computer departments have little experience of shipping systems.

Some traders blame the unreliability on the slow emergence of the new VAT regulations from Brussels. The European Commission, however, throws the blame back on member states, which it says have been slow to agree the shape of the new VAT regime. New regulations are not likely to become law until September. Wherever the blame may lie, it is only in the past month that guidelines have emerged that are firm enough to build systems on.

British customs, which has for the past 20 years been ahead of the rest of Europe in computerising customs procedures, wants companies to submit the new intra-EC VAT returns not only on paper, but preferably on magnetic tape, floppy disc or, direct from a trader's computer straight into the customs computer.

Some of Britain's biggest firms see the beginning of next year as a chance to move to electronic VAT returns for



An experimental neural-network system can distinguish between a bike and a pedestrian on a level crossing

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However, academics and industrialists will need to cooperate more, the report argues. "Existing technology transfer initiatives and the current

group says. The report emphasises the importance of gaining the confidence and cooperation of small as well as big technology companies.

The Acost working group has thus made a series of recommendations to improve the exploitation of neural computing in Britain in order to exploit a market expected to be worth \$1 billion by 1997, up from \$20 million in 1988. A special body should be set up by the Information Technology Advisory Board to manage neural network research, disseminate

results and stimulate training in industry and commerce. The report also recommends stimulating smaller firms' interest in neural networks through a government-funded consultancy scheme to encourage them to use the new technology.

The business justification of researching into and using neural networks needs to be emphasised, through demonstration projects in different fields of industry and commerce. The working group also believes the Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology (Cest), in cooperation with industry and the trade and industry department, should have the task of making potential applications for neural networks a priority.

Artificial Neural Networks: A report of the Advisory Council on Science and Technology. HMSO, £9.95.

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Software confusion over EC trade changes

New customs systems could herald single market problems

When the customs barriers come down all over Europe next New Year's Day, most people believe that all the paperwork and import-export computer systems will disappear with them.

They are wrong. The customs declarations will go, but will be replaced by VAT returns and a European Community statistics system. The end result will be less work in the long term — 60 million fewer import and export declarations a year in the EC — seven million of them in Britain.

But some change will have to be made in the next eight months to the computer programs of the 130,000 British companies involved in trade with EC countries. Up to 30,000 of the larger traders, which import or export more than £140,000 worth of goods a year, will have to enter data into a new EC statistical system called Intrastat.

Despite warnings from the Customs & Excise of what is about to hit them, few of the computer departments of these companies have fully realised what they have to do before the end of the year. And much of the software industry has not made any plans to help them.

The problem is worsened because companies have traditionally farmed out the preparation of their import-export documentation to customs

agents. Since the single market will deprive them of the traditional customs-clearance tasks, many agents have decided to close down, with the loss of more than 1,000 staff around the Port of Dover alone, throwing the task back on the traders, whose computer departments have little experience of shipping systems.

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about the short-term difficulties of splitting the processing of intra and extra-EC trade. He suggests such traders set up joint single market project teams with customs authorities to guide them over the immediate hump of January 1 1993, meanwhile trying to convince the traders that in the long term, the statistics required will be useful to the running of their businesses.

Both the customs and other bodies such as the Simpler Trade Procedures Board are building up their programme of seminars to show firms on what has to be done.

Some transport companies are joining in advising customers on the changes and offering software services. This is seen as a good way to retain their customers, especially as they are hoping the single market will stimulate business.

The software industry, which should perhaps have seen the single market as a potentially huge money-spinner, has so far been disappointing in its response, particularly those firms that write programs for larger computers.

Smaller software houses, like Vistec Express, which have specialised in export systems, are about to bring out packages for the new VAT regime

while firms that write accounting packages for personal computers, such as Pegasus and Sage, will be bringing new export-import modules.

KPMG, a consultancy, has seen an opportunity to help the slower software houses, by translating the new regulations from VAT jargon into 50 pages of computer jargon so the software houses can write their new VAT systems quickly.

The next eight months are going to be nail-biting ones for everybody involved in foreign trade. Not only will British traders have to change their system but customs will have to complete its own software to handle the new VAT returns.

As part of the removal of EC customs barriers, the European Commission is installing a network throughout the 12 member states to allow each state to pass trade statistics to the others, and to query VAT registration numbers in pursuit of fraud.

There is a silver lining. However unprepared we are, our continental partners are even less prepared. Teams from big continental companies are attending British seminars and there is an opportunistic here, if traders and the software industry moves fast, to show other EC countries how to do it.

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Mile is Rudimentary's forte

HENRY Cecil has set back a problem at Sandown today by declaring both Desert Sun and Rudimentary for the group two mile race. Both were ridden first time out by Pat Eddery, who now partners Desert Sun for Prince Khalid Al Saud, leaving Steve Cauthen to ride Lord Howard de Walden's famous apricot colours on Rudimentary.

Eddery remains convinced that Desert Sun is capable of winning a race of this nature if only he were to do on the race track what he consistently does on Newmarket Heath in the early morning. The fact remains, though, the only time that Desert Sun has lived up to his reputation at home was at Doncaster last

September when he beat the subsequent Sun Chariot Stakes winner Ristina impressively by five lengths.

On his seasonal debut nine days ago, Desert Sun again disappointed when he finished only fifth behind Steve Sharp in the Earl of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket with Flashfoot, another of today's runners, third. To be fair to Desert Sun, he might have found the nine-furlong trip that day too far, added to which he almost certainly needed the race if judged on how hard he blew afterwards.

While George Robinson, our Newmarket Correspondent, clearly expects an improved performance from Desert Sun this afternoon, I

am content to look elsewhere until an element of consistency creeps into his record. In this instance I shall side with Rudimentary, who gave warning that a prize such as this was beckoning when he made light of ten stone in a handicap at Newbury 13 days ago.

A half-brother by Nureyev to Kris and Diess, Rudimentary has probably only just achieved the strength and muscle to match his frame. That performance at Newbury where he beat 18 rivals by seven lengths in the fastest time of the day was better

than anything he achieved last year, even his defeat of the champion in the Main Reef Stakes at Newmarket.

The presence of last year's Eclipse stakes winner Enviro-nment Friend, Silkeston, a Royal Ascot winner who has been called on to deputise for Mystiko, the French challenger, Goolfalk, Mukaddamah and Zoman makes this an absorbing contest.

It will be Mukaddamah's first race since he underwent an operation to cure a soft palate and were he to reproduce the form that almost enabled him to win the Prix de Moulins at Longchamp last September, when he was caught on the line by Priolo, he would be hard to beat.

A good run by Zoman, a length second to In The Groove in this same race, will be a pointer to the chances of stable-companion Dulum in the 2,000 Guineas.

A win for Rudimentary can trigger a double for Cauthen, who rides my son Nafin Lover in the American Express Handicap. A combination of lack of fitness and stamina resulted in him being beaten into third over two miles on his seasonal debut at Newbury a fortnight ago. With that run under his belt he should be spot on now that his distance has also been trimmed to a mile and three-quarters.

Guineas booking, page 32

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 RUDIMENTARY.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 GARDNER MERCHANT MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,345) (10 runners)

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.00 Princess Oberon.	2.00 Princess Oberon.	2.35 Jitterbugging.
2.35 Distinct Thatch.	3.05 Distinct Thatch.	3.40 RUDIMENTARY
3.05 Olfantoftein.	3.05 Macfarlane.	(nap).
3.40 Rudimentary.	3.40 DESERT SUN (nap).	4.10 Satin Lover.
4.10 SATIN LOVER (nap).	4.10 Satin Lover.	
4.45 Jod.	5.20 Jazirzho.	
5.20 Modernise.		

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Princess Oberon. 3.40 DESERT SUN (nap). 4.45 Jod.

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BY JACK BAILEY

Strike with a flourish: Thorpe, with Brown looking on, drives against Middlesex

**FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN CANNES**

Forsbrand, an intensely self-critical perfectionist, has spent the last two-and-a-half years pursuing a programme designed to improve him technically (under David Leadbetter and Simon Holmes) and mentally (under Lars-Erik Unestohl, a sports psychologist). It seems to be working.

were punch-up, punch-up, punch-up. . . . I fell down. "I was praying for the bell to go," Mickey Duff, the promoter, said afterwards. Bruno's first comeback fight had ended in the first round and was contemptuously dismissed by observers. This fight lasted a minute and a half into

and training was reported as

BY SIMON WILDE

Somerset have seemingly already prepared the ground for their new overseas player. The Taunton pitch, tinged with green and offering generous movement and bounce, would have suited Richard Snell, who is used to such conditions in Johannesburg. But his future team mates

The resemblance is uncanny, although, standing 6ft 5in, he looks like a stretch version of the limousine of fast bowlers. Last year, Caddick took 96 wickets in the second eleven championship, a record for the competition. Yesterday he took two for 20 in his eleven overs. Mallerder, who took one wicket, was even more economical.

On this pitch, stroke play was all but impossible. The

Somerset's batsmen had fared little better. Whenever Yorkshire needed a wicket, they got one. Their four seamers appeared to take advantage of Moxon winning the toss, often finding chinks in the Somerset armour. Jarvis was particularly hostile, accounting for Townsend in his second over and Hayhurst, playing no stroke, in his third. His 11 overs cost only 14 runs, and his three wickets were all leg-before.

BY GEOFFREY WHEELER

"It's likely he carried the injury all the way through the World Cup," Bob Woolmer, the Warwickshire director of coaching, said. Reeve will miss the zonal stages of the Benson and Hedges Cup, in which, in yesterday's second round of matches, Leicestershire maintained their good start to the season by beating Sussex. Briers and Boon posted their second century partnership of the week as

to form a weakish fourth to make by taking four for 43 at Derbyshire accounted for Glamorgan, while Montgomerie, Snape and Pearson of the Combined Universities — they also play for Northamptonshire — caused problems for Worcestershire before the holders got home by four wickets in the Parks. Dean Hodgson's first one-day century saw Gloucestershire home against Minor Counties.

Derbyshire in Glamorgan		BOWLING: Gerrard 81-3-30; Babbington 114-3-32; Vaughan 101-3-21; Aleyne 111-3-34; Bell 41-1-10; Athy 111-57-4.		Lancashire in Scotland		YORKSHIRE		COMBINED UNIVERSITIES at Glamorgan	
DERBY (Derbyshire won toss). Derbyshire (2pts) beat Glamorgan by four wickets.		GLoucestershire		OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss). Lancashire (2pts) beat Scotland by six wickets.		at Newbury		at Glamorgan	
GLAMORGAN		SCOTLAND		at Cardiff		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
S P James & Adams at Mortenson 0		B M W Patterson at Mortenson 0		M D Mason at Toward 8 Caddick 14		R Mortimer at Glamorgan 0		at Glamorgan	
M P Meynard low at Malcolm 32		H P Philip at Hedges 5		D Byles low at Trump 19		G Joffe at Langport 16 Moody 76		at Glamorgan	
A V Richards at Barnett 18		R Geller at Watkinson 10		TR J Skelley low at Giddister 5		P C Newport at Curdie 16		at Glamorgan	
M Catterall at Bowler 10		A R Russell not out 28		P A Grayson at Mather 16		G Skelley at Curdie 16		at Glamorgan	
TC P Manton at Kilburn 16		E J Evans at Defries 18		C B Pickles at Caddick 16		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
S Wadon low at Malcolm 0		G Salmond not out 10		G C Blythe at Caddick 16		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
M Frost not out 11		D Byles low at Trump 19		G C Blythe at Caddick 16		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
Total (8 wks, 55 overs) 11		Total (8 wks, 55 overs) 219		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-25, 3-38, 4-114, 5-118, 7-136, 8-136, 9-154.		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-144, 2-157, 3-175, 4-181, 5-181, 6-181, 7-181, 8-181, 9-181.		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
BOWLING: Mortenson 111-29; Manton 114-25; Malcolm 110-34; Cook 110-27; Warner 111-25-1.		BOWLING: Mortenson 111-29; Manton 114-25; Malcolm 110-34; Cook 110-27; Warner 111-25-1.		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
LEICESTERSHIRE (Leicestershire won toss). Leicestershire (2pts) beat Sussex by five wickets.		SUSSEX		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
J A Barnett at Maynard 1 Frost 36		J W Hall low at Wells 10		D J Bicknell at Carr 1 Fraser 70		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
P D Bowler not out 36		G Greenfield at Smith 10		M A Lynch run out 65		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
J E Morris at Cotton 16		M P Meynard low at Wells 10		P G Thomas at Emery 78		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
J C O'Connell at Cowdrey 16		M P Meynard low at Wells 10		D B Brown not out 65		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
I R Bishop at Croft 16		M P Meynard low at Wells 10		M P Meynard low at Wells 10		at Glamorgan		at Glamorgan	
D G Cook not out 36		M P Meynard low at Wells 10		M P Meynard low at Wells 10					

BY MICHAEL SEELY

Richard Hannon, who has won the 2,000 Guineas three times, will be three-handed with River Falls (Bruce Raymond), Swing Low (Walter

By JACK WATERMAN

The same number of racecourses are participating, from Hamilton Park in Scotland to Folkestone in Kent. The series starts at Haydock Park next month.

Rothmans also sponsor other sports in Britain and support racing abroad, notably the Rothmans International in Canada. The idea of founding racing in Britain, brought to fruition in only two months, was the brainchild of their chairman, Lord Swaythling.

By MARK HERRIN

The Colleges netball players repeated their successes of Wednesday to secure the championship. A second-half recovery inspired by the tenacity of their goal attack, Elizabeth Rees, saw them beat the Polytechnics 15-3 and their

Ferguson's
Long
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BY STEAD

SHOULD Manchester United in its win the championship this season, many observers will assume that the psychological damage will be irreparable. Yet that would underestimate the extent of the information carried out by Alex Ferguson, who is in the process of securing the future of the old Trafford den.

He has reorganized the high-level staff, most of whom were former players and returned to the traditions of the Traffic and renewed the sports policy once so lax under Sir Matt Busby. Nine of the youngsters appear to lead the FA Cup. For instance, are eligible for international competition. They have and have also enhanced their position as the country's wealthiest club, which will draw Ferguson in persuading the likes of Giggs, Sharpe and Kanchelskis to stay. The winners, aged 18, 20 and 23 respectively, must otherwise have been tempted to seek financial inducements on the continent.

CHAMPIONSHIP

[illegible]

Papin to

JEAN-Pierre Papin will begin to say his farewells to Marseilles with a characteristic flourish tomorrow. Before the French champions take the field at the Stade Velodrome for their match with Cannes, Papin is planning to announce where he will playing next season. The words "AC Milan" will almost certainly figure in his speech at

His parting gift to the club he has led to unchallenged supremacy in France will, all things being equal, be a fourth successive championship. Marseilles need only to draw with their lowly visitors to put them beyond the reach of second-placed **AS Monaco**. Milan, meanwhile, continue their stroll to the Serie A title at **Torino** on Sunday where they will get a first-hand view of Gianluigi Lentini, the forward they plan to sign from the Turin club for £10 mil-

Ferguson's tactics are open to criticism

Long-term future at United will redress setback

BY STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SHOULD Manchester United fail to win the championship this season, many observers will assume that the psychological damage will be irreparable. Yet that would underestimate the extent of the reformation carried out by Alex Ferguson, who is in the process of securing the future of the Old Trafford club.

He has reorganised the backroom staff, most of whom now are former players accustomed to the traditions at Old Trafford, and renewed the youth policy once so famed under Sir Matt Busby. Nine of the youngsters about to collect the FA Youth Cup, for instance, are eligible for next season's competition.

United have also enhanced their position as the country's wealthiest club, which will assist Ferguson in persuading the likes of Giggs, Sharpe and Kanchelskis to stay. The wingers, aged 18, 20 and 23 respectively, might otherwise have been tempted to seek financial inducements on the continent.

The talent assembled at Old Trafford was regarded as

the finest in England during the first half of the season. Anxiety has since increasingly held them back to the point where they have fallen behind Leeds United, but Ferguson believes that the experience gained by his squad, though potentially bitter, will ultimately be beneficial.

The United challenge is built to last. Nevertheless, during a season in which those of the recognised rivals — Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur — all faltered, it should have borne immediate fruit and Ferguson's tactics are open to criticism.

Although injuries have, as usual, regularly enforced changes, he has used 20 players in a bewildering variety of line-ups. Only once in 40 League games has he maintained the same side. Blackmore has worn six different numbers and Donaghy five. The only outfield representative to have figured consistently is McClair.

Significantly, he has been the one reliable scorer. Even when he was dropped, for the home game against Luton

Town in September, he came on as a substitute to claim two of the five goals in United's most emphatic victory so far.

So careful and convincing then and until Boxing Day, their supply of goals dried up once the year turned. Even Oldham Athletic, in twelfth place, have a more productive attack and Ferguson concedes that "we haven't scored enough to win the League".

Yet the pressure that inhibited his side has been transferred to Leeds United. A point clear and with a superior goal difference of five, their critical fixture is at Sheffield United on Sunday.

When the two met in October, Sheffield were bottom and apparently already destined for relegation. They lost at Elland Road by the odd goal in seven, but this year have risen 13 places with a sequence of results surpassed by nobody, not even a resurgent Arsenal.

Leeds will then finish at home against currently the worst side in the first division. Norwich City, after six successive defeats, cannot logically be expected to hold the leaders. Then again, West Ham United were not supposed to hinder the former favourites on Wednesday.

United's 1-0 defeat there has left them with nothing to lose and they may as well restore their sense of adventure for the televised game against Liverpool on Sunday. United's record at Anfield suggests that their closing fixture at home to Tottenham Hotspur may mean more than merely staging Linaker's farewell party.

Ferguson is considering recalling Robson, even though he is not fully fit. It would be appropriate if the 35-year-old captain could return and lift them back towards the elusive prize. At his age, it would probably be a final gesture for the club he has served so honorably for so long.



Claiming the spoils: Krickstein celebrates his crushing 6-1, 6-4 victory over Becker in the Monte Carlo Open yesterday

Becker slips on slow surface

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MONTE CARLO

EVEN in his wilder dreams, Mikael Tillström could not have envisaged outlasting such famous names as Björn Borg and Boris Becker in Monte Carlo. But truth proved much stranger than fiction yesterday as the young Swede, a qualifier ranked No. 327, blinked into the daylight of the last eight in his first important tournament while Becker was the most distinguished of the four seeds to lose.

"I don't really know what to say," Tillström said after his 6-1, 6-2 win over Marc Rosset. "I was almost the last player into the qualifying draw and now I am in the quarter-finals. Everything happens so quick."

Becker voiced rather the opposite complaint. On clay, nothing happens fast enough for him and yesterday he

stumbled to an embarrassing defeat, winning just five games against Aaron Krickstein amid a cacophony of jeers and whistles from his adopted home crowd. He held his service just twice in eight games and the ease with which the American returned service seemed to destroy the top seed's already delicate morale.

"My serve was going in fast, but I couldn't win a game. That isn't really helped by his refusal to exploit the game he knows best. In the early days, he rushed to the net and was passed at will by the baseliners; now he stays rooted to the back of the court and is all too easily outmanoeuvred and outthought by the same wily players."

"Once the rally had started, I knew I had a better than 50 per cent chance of winning the point from the baseline," Krickstein, the No. 16 seed, said.

There must be a happy medium — indeed, Becker found it here last year in beating Goran Prpic and Andrei Chesnokov on the way to the final — but sometimes he refuses even to acknowledge it, let alone find it. "If it were up to me, I would serve and volley the whole time. But you just cannot do that on clay."

Michael Stich does and, though the Wimbledon champion does live dangerously at times, he simply overpowered Javier Sánchez, who had earlier watched his elder brother suffer the same fate against the promising young Frenchman, Arnaud Boesche.

Stich, one of only two seeds to survive this far, served and volleyed almost everything, but he will have to be more

temperate against Prpic today in the quarter-final line-up, which is Krickstein v Chesnokov, Stich v Prpic, Tillström v Muster, Boesche v Steeb. It must be a while since no Spaniard graced the last eight of a European clay court tournament.

The smart money, of which there is no shortage in this town, favours a repeat of the 1990 final between Chesnokov and Muster. The Austrian, bustling and belligerent as ever, looked ominously strong in beating Guy Forget and should account for the newcomer Tillström, aged 20, who was inspired by Borg in his early days. Perhaps, just for one week, roles will be reversed.

RESULTS: Third round: M. Tillström (Swe) bt M. Rosset (Svi), 6-7, 6-4, 6-2; A. Boesche (Fr) bt E. Sánchez (Sp), 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; A. Krickstein (US) bt B. Becker (Ger), 6-1, 6-4; A. Chesnokov (CIS) bt K. Novacek (CZ), 6-2, 7-5; M. Stich (Ger) bt J. Sánchez (Sp), 6-4, 7-5; M. Muster (Aust) bt G. Forget (Fr), 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; G. Prpic (Croatia) bt M. Larsson (Swe), 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; C. Stich (Ger) bt W. Boesche (Fr), 6-2, 6-1.

RESULTS: Second round: M. Tillström (Swe) bt M. Rosset (Svi), 6-7, 6-4, 6-2; A. Boesche (Fr) bt E. Sánchez (Sp), 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; A. Krickstein (US) bt B. Becker (Ger), 6-1, 6-4; A. Chesnokov (CIS) bt K. Novacek (CZ), 6-2, 7-5; M. Stich (Ger) bt J. Sánchez (Sp), 6-4, 7-5; M. Muster (Aust) bt G. Forget (Fr), 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; G. Prpic (Croatia) bt M. Larsson (Swe), 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; C. Stich (Ger) bt W. Boesche (Fr), 6-2, 6-1.

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YACHTING Conner is upset by winds

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
IN SAN DIEGO

SAN Diego's notorious swells and fickle winds sank Dennis Conner's hopes of victory in the America's Cup defender trials on Wednesday and helped New Zealand to perform a dramatic comeback in the challenger finals.

It was Conner's third successive defeat by Bill Koch's America³ in this best-of-13 defence finals, and his yacht, Stars & Stripes, was knocked down by a decisive 4-min 20sec margin. America³ led from the outset as Conner's yacht struggled against the 4-5 ft seas.

"This was the roughest day we've seen yet," Conner said. "The winds were shifting by as much as 50 degrees, and at one point I thought we would need binoculars to watch America³."

RESULTS: Defence trials (best of 13): Third race: America³ (W. Koch) bt Stars & Stripes (D. Conner) by 4 min 20sec. Overall: America³ 3, Stars & Stripes 0. Louis Vuitton challenge trials (best of 5): Third race: New Zealand (R. Dwyer) bt Stars & Stripes (P. Cayard) 11, 0-34. Overall: New Zealand 2, Stars & Stripes 1.

RESULTS: First division: M. Stich (Ger) bt M. Rosset (Svi), 6-7, 6-4, 6-2; A. Boesche (Fr) bt E. Sánchez (Sp), 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; A. Krickstein (US) bt B. Becker (Ger), 6-1, 6-4; A. Chesnokov (CIS) bt K. Novacek (CZ), 6-2, 7-5; M. Stich (Ger) bt J. Sánchez (Sp), 6-4, 7-5; M. Muster (Aust) bt G. Forget (Fr), 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; G. Prpic (Croatia) bt M. Larsson (Swe), 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; C. Stich (Ger) bt W. Boesche (Fr), 6-2, 6-1.

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Papin to disclose new club

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL BY PETER ROBINSON

JEAN-Pierre Papin will begin to say his farewells to Marseilles with a characteristic flourish tomorrow. Before the French champions leave the field at the Stade Velodrome for their match with Cannes, Papin is planning to announce where he will be playing next season. The words "AC Milan" will almost certainly figure in his speech at some point.

His parting gift to the club he has led to unchallenged supremacy in France will, all things being equal, be a fourth successive championship. Marseilles need only to draw with their lowly visitors to put them beyond the reach of second-placed AS Monaco. Milan, meanwhile, continue their stroll to the Serie A title at Torino on Sunday where they will get a first-hand view of Gianluigi Lentini, the forward they plan to sign from the Turin club for £10 mil-

lion, a fee which would make him the world's most expensive player. They are perhaps lucky to be in action at all, a players' strike was averted only yesterday when the Italian football federation agreed to a maximum of only two non-European Community (EC) signings per club from July 1. The league had planned to allow clubs to sign as many overseas players as they liked. There will still be no limit on the number of players from within the community.

There would be an outcry in Germany if this weekend's Bundesliga matches were called off. All four pretenders to Kaiserslautern's league crown play each other with Borussia Dortmund, the leaders, meeting third-placed VfB Stuttgart and Eintracht Frankfurt, second in the table, playing Bayer Leverkusen, fourth.

In The Netherlands, PSV Eindhoven will win their sixth championship in seven years if they beat Groningen to give Bobby Robson, who is to leave the club after two years in charge, a successful send-off.

Spain kicked off their World Cup qualifying campaign on Wednesday with a mediocre 3-0 defeat of Albania in group three in Seville. Only Michel, the Real Madrid midfielder player, impressed as he scored twice. The group also includes Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

If the Spanish greeted victory uneasily, they were far happier than the Belgians in group four. Their 1-0 defeat of Cyprus provoked a whistling from the 18,000 spectators in Brussels. Wales, among their rivals in the section, will be somewhat happier after this result.

RUGBY UNION

Irish change squad

DENIS McBride and Patrick Johns were yesterday added to the injury-hit Irish party to tour New Zealand next month (David Hands writes). McBride, the Malone flanker who has been capped eight times, replaces Gordon Hamilton and Johns, from Dungannon, comes in for Philip Lawlor. At least both have had international experience, even if, in Johns's case, it is limited to one cap against Argentina two years ago.

New Zealand, meanwhile, conclude their three-match centenary series against the World XV in Auckland tomorrow by facing the player

who led them into the 1991 World Cup, Gary Whetton. Whetton, his country's most capped player but overlooked in trial matches earlier this month, packs down in the World second row alongside Troy Coker in the absence, through suspension, of Oliver Karmait and, through injury, of John Eales. Jason Little, the Australian centre, comes in for Jeremy Guscott, Gavin Hastings, David Sole and Derek White sustain Scotland's interest.

At Stuart Redfern and Chris Tressler, both stalwarts of the Leicester front row, are to retire from first-class rugby at the end of this season.

HOCKEY

Recruits go on trial

THE women's home countries championship, which starts today in Cork, will prove a valuable testing ground for the talent developing in the four nations (Alix Ramsay writes).

With the Great Britain players preparing for the Olympic Games, there is room for coaches to try new faces. No team has been affected as badly as England, who have lost 13 players. Only Fiona Lee and Jane Smith remain from the side that won the European championship last May.

"It's like bringing up a child," Jenny Cardwell, the England manager, said. "We

get them to the level where they can face an Olympics and then we lose them."

Cardwell is enjoying the challenge of starting from scratch. Her young players, who have only 60 caps among them, have taken on Belgium and Spain in training matches and today play Scotland.

Against Spain, the raw recruits got a taste of hard international competition. "It was quite a shock to them to see how fast and furious the Spanish were," Cardwell said. "We're hoping the home countries won't be as fast and I think our players will hold up well to the challenge."

STUDENT SPORT

Netball and hockey fall to Colleges

BY MARK HERBERT

ALTHOUGH the British Universities took a commanding overall lead on the second day of the Endsleigh festival, the Colleges set the race with the Polytechnics for second place wide open at Birmingham yesterday.

Having failed to win a title last year, Colleges had taken two by the midpoint of the event. Their women's hockey team, owing much to the midfield partnership of Helen Thonally and Jane Hunt, clinched the event by beating Universities, the holders, 2-1.

Sara Thorp scored both their goals in the first half while in the second half, the Universities captain, Sarah Naylor, missed two penalty flicks.

The Colleges netball players repeated their successes of Wednesday to secure the championship. A second-half recovery inspired by the tenacity of their goal attack, Elizabeth Rees, saw them beat the Polytechnics 45-34 and their defence enabled them to hang on to beat the Universities 31-27.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 3, St. Louis Cardinals 2. Chicago Cubs 2, Philadelphia Phillies 1. San Diego Padres 9, Atlanta Braves 5. Pittsburgh Pirates 2, Montreal Expos 1. Houston Astros 3, San Francisco Giants 1 (12 innings). Cincinnati Reds 4,

FRIDAY APRIL 24 1992

Bruno looking too powerful for his own good



Bruno: back to training

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE BIG punch that knocked out José Ribalta may have floored Frank Bruno's chances of a world title elimination bout with Pierre Coetzer, of South Africa, the No. 1 contender of the World Boxing Association.

Coetzer's manager, Cedric Kushner, who had told Bruno's promoter, Mickey Duff, that Coetzer was prepared to meet Bruno in London in September, could not be found yesterday to talk further.

Duff feared Bruno's quick victory at Wembley Arena on Wednesday may have frightened off the South African.

"It can happen if you look

too good," Duff said yesterday. Kushner had told Duff at the weekend, when he was here for the Freddie Mercury concert, that Bruno would find Ribalta — who last year had given Coetzer a hard fight — a very difficult man to beat. In the event, it took Bruno, at 30, a year older than his opponent, less than two rounds.

However, Duff was not giving up. He said he would be chasing Kushner and expected to find him within 48 hours. "Before the next 16 months are out, Frank Bruno will fight for the world title," Duff said. "I have a very good relationship with Dan Duva and Shelley Finkel, the men behind Evander Holyfield [the world champion]."

Duff was upset by some newspaper comments rubbishing Bruno's performance. "If people play down Bruno's performance, let's hope that Dan Duva and Shelley Finkel believe what they read in the papers," Duff said.

"He was a respectable opponent," Bruno said. "I am more mature now. I dominated. He tried to put shots in from the top but I took it away from him. If you fail, you get criticised. If you succeed, you get criticised. It's a free country. All you can do is carry on." He will return to training immediately, possibly for a bout in June, depending on the availability of a suitable opponent.

"I would like to get back as

quickly as possible," Bruno said. Lennox Lewis, the world-ranked European champion, was considered as an opponent but only on the condition that he admits to Bruno being the main attraction in the all-British bout and receiving the lion's share of the money.

"If they accept they are bringing a lesser amount to the table I will make the fight," Duff said. Lewis is due to meet Derek Williams, the Commonwealth champion, at the Albert Hall next Thursday.

Whatever the reasons for Ribalta's pathetic effort, Bruno's performance cannot be faulted. We shall never know if Ribalta, who is very experienced, just did not

want to fight, or was not feeling well, or simply was caught before he had time to settle down. A Bruno jab can unsettle anybody but, for the first time in his 34-bout career, Bruno did look good.

Looking the part has often been Bruno's biggest problem. Being a manufactured boxer, he was always too muscle bound, stiff, self-conscious and nervous. He always appeared to be boxing by numbers. This time it was different. He was cool, relaxed, confident and, by his standards, more supple.

Duff said: "I have never seen him more relaxed before or during a fight. I spent the weekend with him and we walked and talked and he talked about Ribalta as if he

was somebody's else's opponent."

Bruno took charge straight away, outjabbed Ribalta and shaped well into his heavier punches, particularly the ones to the body, and best of all, refused to let the 6ft 7in Cuban off the hook. In the old days Bruno would either not have known that he had hurt his opponent or would have stood back to admire his handiwork before proceeding.

Apart from the good an experienced trainer like George Francis has done him, I am sure that Bruno's life on the boards — his song, dance and comedy routines in pantomime, basic though they are, before live audiences nightly — has helped

him to relax in mind and body. Just as Ribalta was counted out, Bruno did something that seemed significant. He faced his supporters and punched the air with a "I showed him" look on his face.

Bruno mark one, the one that got out of boxing after his defeat by Mike Tyson three years ago, was too self-effacing to make such an aggressive gesture. For Bruno mark two, it is a part of a new-found confidence that makes him feel he could win the world title. If he were to be given a match with Holyfield tomorrow, I feel he would have an even-money chance of winning.

Simon Barnes, page 32

Bowlers' brilliance inspires West Indies

Ambrose and Walsh end S Africa hopes

FROM RICHARD STRETON IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

THE dreams South Africa had held overnight of marking their momentous return to Test cricket with a victory against West Indies were rudely shattered here yesterday. Brilliant bowling by Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh on a worn pitch brought about one of the most abrupt collapses in history as West Indies won by 52 runs.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First Innings 282 (K L T Arthurson 59, D L Haynes 59, R P Small 4 for 84). Second Innings 282 (J C Adams 79 not out, B C Lara 84, Sneli 4 for 74, A A Donald 4 for 77).

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 245 (A C Hudson 153, K C Wessels 55, Adams 4 for 43).

Second Innings

A C Hudson c Lara b Ambrose 0

M W Rasmussen b Ambrose 0

K C Wessels c Lara b Walsh 0

P N Krieger b Walsh 0

A P Krieger c Williams b Ambrose 0

J P Richardson c Williams b Ambrose 0

R P Small c Adams b Walsh 0

M W Rasmussen b Ambrose 0

T Boshoff not out 0

A A Donald b Ambrose 0

Extras (b 4, lb 3, nb 4) 11

Total 148

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-27, 3-123, 4-130, 5-151, 6-162, 7-162, 8-177, 9-168.

BOWLING: Ambrose 24.7-34.6, Patterson 7.1-25.0, Benjamin 5.2-21.0, Walsh 22.10-31.4, Adams 5.0-16.0, Simmons 5.1-13.0.

Umpires: D M Archer and S U Bucknor

West Indies won by 52 runs

In 95 minutes, South Africa lost their remaining eight second-innings wickets for 26 runs, having resumed needing 79 to win. Their batsmen could do nothing as the ball scuttled through low. Walsh took four for eight in 11 overs and Ambrose four for 16 in 10.4, bowling unchanged together and ending the match shortly before lunch.

It brought West Indies their eleventh successive win on the ground on which they have only been beaten once in 27 Test matches since 1929-30. It was a dramatic victory which will restore morale and confidence for both their players and supporters in a difficult time of transition. South Africa contributed equally to a magnificent Test match.

In particular this triumph will mean much to Richie Richardson, in his first Test as West Indies captain. Richardson has been criticised endlessly since he succeeded Vivian Richards. Now he smiled broadly as, waving an Antiguan flag seized from the crowd, he led his players on a circuit of the field. "I wanted to show everyone how united we are as a team," he said.

Less than a thousand spectators were again present but the West Indians among them made enough noise for five times that number. Everton Weekes diplomatically gave the man-of-the-match award jointly to Ambrose and Andrew Hudson, whose stalwart 163 in South Africa's first innings had ensured a competitive game.

Ambrose, who overall had six for 34 in the innings, was now as great a bowler as any in West Indian history. David Holford, the West Indies manager, said: "South Africa outplayed us for three days before we came into the game."

Mike Procter, the South Africa coach, said: "Perhaps we did not bat positively enough and allowed them to bowl too well. It was a hammer blow when Wessels got out so early."

Walsh tilted the match irrevocably towards West Indies in the first hour when he dismissed Wessels, Kuiper and Kirsten in the course of 27 balls at a cost of six runs. Only a leg-bye had been added to South Africa's overnight 122 for two when Wessels, the captain, drove flat-footed at Walsh, and Lara held a catch at slip.

Cronje was held low down by Williams as he stabbed desperately at a low ball from Ambrose. Williams took another good catch when Kuiper pushed outside the off stump against Walsh and the wicketkeeper drove to his left to hold the ball from an inside edge.

Kirsten square-drove the morning's only four against Ambrose before he edged a ball from Walsh into his stumps. Kirsten had fought valiantly for three-and-three-quarter hours in all, hit five fours and faced 166 balls.

Sneli was the next to go when he turned Walsh off his legs and Adams, who enjoyed a splendid debut, took a reflex catch at forward short leg. Pringle was yanked by Ambrose, who in his next over had Richardson caught behind as he swished, and next ball ended the game by bowling Donald.

More cricket, page 32



Losing battle: Wessels, the South Africa captain, whose early dismissal yesterday prompted a collapse

Marshall brooks no argument

BY IVO TENNANT
SOUTHAMPTON (Essex won toss): Hampshire (2pts) beat Essex by 41 runs

AFTER being bowled out for 61 on Tuesday, Essex, the favourites to win just about everything this season faced little better yesterday. They mustered only 136 against Hampshire, Graham Gooch, again not scoring, and will be hard put to remain in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

In 31 matches in this competition Malcolm Marshall had never won the gold award, a statistic which sits oddly alongside Gooch's record total of 19. Now, racing in as if to give the lie to the notion that he is merely seeing out the last years of his career, he took the first three Essex wickets and four for 20 in all. There was no doubting who would win this award.

If anyone other than Gooch had been leg-before for ducks

in successive innings, it would have been noticed. With the England captain, though, this evoked horrid memories of 1987 — the last time the Pakistanis were here when a string of noughts at Chelmsford led to him wondering whether he would ever again be able to bat effectively.

Early in an innings Gooch's footwork can be markedly limited. He was only half-forward to the ball Marshall looked to cut back at him. Stephenson was also leg-before, padding up, and in his third over Marshall beat Waugh, who was also playing indeterminately.

This was classy fast bowling. Marshall is 34 and retired from Test cricket but his ambition to play in a one-day final remains. He conceded just one run in this spell — and that was a no-ball.

Essex did rather better when Marshall's initial seven overs ended. Ayling, looking

a yard quicker than last season, removed Prichard and Knight but Hussain and Fringle eked out 59 runs for the sixth wicket. Owers were not an issue and Hussain, watched by Micki Stewart, England's manager, took 115 balls in making 55. What decided the outcome was when Marshall returned and had him taken at gully.

Having put Hampshire in and bowled them out for 177, Essex must have thought they had the match won. Middleton batted, or rather batted, throughout 34 overs for 41, and Robin Smith crashed the ball around with customary power, but the kinds of innings that Chris Smith so often provided in the past was not forthcoming now.

Hampshire last nine wickets fell for 69, Gower and Nicholas among them. They too, were leg-before. To Foster and Iltis, whose line and zip were especially impressive.

HAMPSHIRE
V P Tarry bow b Tott 14
T C Middleton bow b Stephenson 41
R A Smith c Gannham b Stephenson 42
D J Gower bow b Marshall 8
M C J Nicholas bow b Tott 19
R A Ayling c Foster b Smith 14
M D Marshall c Gannham b Tott 11
N A Hussain b Smith 18
J A Marmion b Smith 11
S D Iltis not out 3
C A Connor b Pringle 0
Extras (b 1, lb 9, w 7, nb 2) 22
Total (85 overs) 177

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-106, 3-111, 4-124, 5-143, 6-145, 7-165, 8-168, 9-175.

BOWLING: Foster 11.1-25.1, Iltis 11.1-27.2, Stephenson 11.0-47.2, Pringle 10.4-40.2, Smith 11.2-32.2.

Essex

G A Gooch bow b Marshall 0

P Stephenson bow b Marshall 0

M E Marsh bow b Marshall 0

N Hussain c Tarry b Marshall 0

M A Gannham c Tarry b Marshall 0

P J Pringle c Ayling b Marshall 0

N V Knight c Tarry b Ayling 0

R P Small c Ayling b Marshall 0

M A Gannham bow b Iltis 0

N A Hussain bow b Iltis 0

R A Ayling not out 0

Extras (b 1, lb 9, w 7, nb 2) 22

Total (85 overs) 177

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-1, 3-5, 4-33, 5-51, 6-110, 7-127, 8-127, 9-127.

BOWLING: Marshall 11.3-20.4, Connor 9.2-25.0, Iltis 11.1-27.2, Ayling 9.2-25.2, Mary 9.2-13.1.

Gold award: M D Marshall (Hampshire).

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J W Holder.

Essex

G R Cowdrey bow b Carris 15

M V Fleming bow b Carris 15

M A Marsh bow b Carris 15

J I Longley bow b Carris 15

M A Gannham not out 0

M A Gannham bow b Carris 15

R P Small bow b Carris 15

Extras (b 1, lb 9, w 7, nb 2) 22

Total (85 overs) 177

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Gold award: M D Marshall (Hampshire).

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White is keen to build on big break

BY PHIL YATES

WHEN Joe Davis beat Tom Dennis in the final of the inaugural world professional championship in 1927, he collected £6 10s. On Wednesday night, Jimmy White earned £114,000 by compiling a maximum break on his way to the last 16 of this year's championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

White's 147, made in the penultimate frame of his 10-4 first-round victory over Tony Drago, of Malta, was the fourth maximum recorded by a professional in competition this season, and the fourteenth in all. However, few of the players in the exclusive 147 club would begrudge White's effort being described as the most stylish.

From the moment he clipped the eleven red into a baulk pocket, and brought the cue ball ten feet back down the table into ideal position on the black, you felt he would not fail.

It was instant excitement, unlike that generated when Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, made the only other maximum break in the 65-year history of the championship against Terry Griffiths in 1983. White's perfect run took just ten minutes while Thorburn's lasted 19.

Apart from the obvious financial implications of the break — £100,000 for a maximum and £14,000 for the event's highest break — White also drew great confidence from his achievement.

"I can handle that kind of pressure. I know my nerve will stand up to anything thrown at me for the rest of the championship," he said. White, aged 29, is desperate to win the title for the first time after being runner-up on three occasions.

His next opponent will be Alain Robidou. The bearded Canadian registered one of his best victories of an indifferent season yesterday when he beat Nigel Bond, of England, 10-7.

Results, page 33

Writers honour Lineker

GARY Lineker will end his career in England as the 1992 Footballer of the Year after the Tottenham Hotspur forward was a clear victor in the annual poll of the English Football Writers' Association.

They voted Stuart Pearce, of Nottingham Forest, runner-up, with Brian McClair, of Manchester United, third. Lineker, aged 31 and committed to playing in Japan next season, first won the trophy in 1986 at Everton.

The Football League's search for financial security without the first division clubs received a boost yesterday with the signing of a four-year £2.5 million sponsorship with Jewsons. The sponsorship rewards clubs which show the most initiative in customer services.

The mini-league semi-final series will be used again in next season's European Cup, the Uefa executive committee have announced.

United's future, page 33

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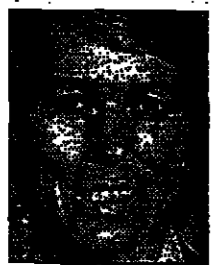
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FRIDAY APRIL 24 1992

MOTORING

The pain of
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new car



Out of left field
in Labour's election
contest comes
Red Ken and his
prescription for
the government
of tomorrow

Happy days are here again, when Red Ken comes out (with Bernie Grant in tow) to challenge Messrs Smith and Gould for the Labour leadership, just when it seemed that the new model party was destined for terminal middle-class acceptability.

Nobody has re-styled Ken Livingstone's cheeky red face, gingery moustache and nasal south London vowels. He still has his repulsive pet. He still makes wry comments about himself: "I have four O-levels, which fully qualifies me to be prime minister." After five years in the Westminster wilderness, marginalised and ignored by a leader intent on reforming the party image, he emerges in the wake of their crushing defeat with a radical manifesto, his old easy charm intact.

On Wednesday he was off to Brussels to speak on European monetary matters, but there was time before his flight to take breakfast at the Golden Vale cafe on Cricklewood Broadway. He tucked into The Irishman's Breakfast — designed for the busy labourer — of egg, sausage, bacon and mushrooms with bubble and squeak.

"Candidate caught masticating," he said, as the photographer snapped away. The lady sweeping the floor bent his ear about a girlfriend of her son's. Brent council had given her a flat on the notorious Chalkhill Estate in Wembley. Vandalism had moved in and wrecked the new carpets and graffitied over the walls. The poor girl is under the doctor and refuses to go back. Yes, Ken will help. "Nobody in their right mind wants to live on the Chalkhill estate," he says. "They put all the homeless families there. It's a riot just waiting to explode. The Tory council puts no barrier between people and the awfulness of life."

His immediate task is to ring every Labour MP personally to try to get the written support of 20 per cent of them for his leadership. Impossible? "This is Labour's barmy and backward Stalinist rule. In the old days he would need only 5 per cent. Kimmo's way of saying, 'Let's make it impossible for them.' A lot of MPs may agree with what I'm saying, but the press assumes Smith is going to win and people don't want to blot their copybook, they want to vote for the winner."

Smith may be the most plausible candidate ("Tony Banks said if John Smith could visit every home in Britain, every home would have stone cladding, double glazing and a full set of encyclopaedias") but he insists that not even Mr Smith could have won this election, and nor could caddy Ken himself. Mr Livingstone pins the Labour campaign failure on its tax and national insurance plans which would have hit the average working man.

The increases at £21,000 cost us the election. In London, £21,000 is the average income of the skilled worker, the lower-middle-class families. I warned them months ago: but anything I said (or Benn or Skinner) was ignored. People would say to me, 'I can afford another £200 a year, but I just can't afford any more.' In Brent East we had a real problem on the doorstep, in the areas where everyone is mortgaged up to the hilt. In London, £21,000 a year does not give you a life of luxury: you're better off on the £15,000 average in Edinburgh."

His solution centres on reducing defence spending by £7 billion. "Germany is committed to reducing its military budget to 2 per cent of GDP, which is £11 billion. Yet we've still got an army on the Rhine! We could end up spending more on defending Germany than Germany does. And who are we defending Germany from? The wicked French? The rampantly expansionist Czechs? What a joke."

"You have to be honest with



"Expressing any dissenting opinion was regarded as an act of disloyalty. Whoever wins the leadership, the party will never be so unpleasant again": Ken Livingstone on a more caring, sharing Labour party

Mr Livingstone presumes

people. No government, Tory or Labour, can have pensions and investment in industry and a military presence. You are trying to do too much. People know it doesn't add up."

Defeat has sent his friends into a state of clinical depression, he says, but he felt it all slipping away in the last week, "aided by that diastrophic Sheffield rally." Mr Livingstone says he was not invited to that, nor to any Labour party event in the last five years. Even when he was on the national executive committee, his invitation would arrive too late.

"Vindictive and petty? Yes," he says. Even when the party was drawing up its proposals for a new London body, the former Greater London Council chief's views were not invited. "Expressing any dissenting opinion was regarded as an act of disloyalty. Whoever wins the leadership, the party will never be so unpleasant again. I was put up for the coypu control committee," he says, "and then they announced the coypu was extinct and the committee disbanded."

Only the scrupulous fairness of Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, allowed Mr Livingstone's voice to be heard in the House at all. "And, as I got up, I could feel the entire Labour benches freeze rigid."

"Fleet Street called Neil the most brilliant party manager, because he got rid of the people Fleet Street didn't like. Then we hit the election and fell flat on our faces. If Fleet Street's on his side, a Labour leader should wonder what he's doing wrong. They weren't going to support us when the crunch came. A Labour leader should be vilified by the vastly rich and powerful men who control the press. If the Labour party wins the approval of Captain Maxwell, you have to ask, 'Why is Britain's most successful crook backing me?'"

He has watched the party membership drain away, demoralised, "because they felt they were no longer welcome. They might as well go and dig their gardens. At least plants don't make it plain they

dislike you. And politics is always about touching people's hearts. That's what Mrs Thatcher understood so well, and she was brilliant. Mad, but brilliant."

This week he aired his views on Mrs Thatcher's *Newweek* article ("Let's hear lots more from Mrs Thatcher. She is doing the Labour party a great service by putting the knife in John Major's back") in *The Sun*, which once called him The Most Odious Man in Britain, and where his smiling mug-shot now appears every Wednesday. "Eleven million read it," he says. "My column is the single most important thing I do for the Labour party. Half their readers vote Labour. And my column goes in unedited, even if the editor tells me everything I write is the opposite of *Sun* policy. I spent five years boycotting all Murdoch papers. But I have to confess it seems not to have forced him into insolvency."

This week he also reissued his challenge to John Smith to a television debate, to which Mr Smith has not responded. The income he gets from the column and from his ads for Red Leicester cheese goes into his private company, funding a database (£15,000 a year) of economic analysis, often

identifying economic trends, he

boasts, weeks before the *Financial Times* does. He is now sending his bulletin to Russia, to counter the influence of the Chicago school economists, expounding his view that while the market is fine as a system of distribution and exchange, intervention is needed for planning, investment, training and protection of the environment.

Well, Red Ken was a leader once, and not everyone in London feared

and loathed his GLC: at least when he was at the hub of London's incoherent sprawl, feelings of rage or pride had some sort of focus.

"Now, the travelling public is treated with contempt, we have the idiosyncrasy of one-man operated buses. Irrespective of party, we could have built the Jubilee Line out to Docklands years ago. Now they hope to raise the necessary billions to get it built by the next century. The arts patronage has gone. And the selling of County Hall to the Japanese has aroused real hatred."

He also managed to give the GLC some yuppie appeal: the 25 to 45-year-old AEs swung to Labour because they looked like the future. He sees it as a fatal Kinnock error that he never wooed London and the south. "He stuck to the old faithful in the traditional Labour heartland, instead of spending time in areas we needed to take. He ignored the southeast. Now that's a big plus for Bryan Gould. You can't get any further south than New Zealand."

At 46 Mr Livingstone has matured into a home-owner. He has moved from a council flat to a small (mortgaged) Victorian terrace house. He has made his 90th south-facing rectangle a haven for wildlife

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



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At 46 Mr Livingstone has matured into a home-owner. He has moved from a council flat to a small (mortgaged) Victorian terrace house. He has made his 90th south-facing rectangle a haven for wildlife

with a huge pond for his amphibious friends, frogs, toads and the famous newts. "A beautiful dragonfly, bigger than your pen, iridescent green in colour, took up residence for a week," he says proudly.

What a single-minded cove he is. Politics fills his life: no car, no kids. But he always prefers to be among people than alone, and in television studios he is a shameless wooer of audiences. "Everybody feels they can approach me, in the street, on the train to the NUT conference. I am not a person of solitude and introspection. I am not a Nietzschean figure sitting on a mountain thinking great thoughts." He tells me there is a Sikh temple at Southall where his nickname is engraved in stone. "This temple was opened by Mr Red Ken Livingstone."

Red Ken was bred a working-class Tory. Before he did his teacher training, he briefly followed his window-cleaner father, until his knuckles bled with cold. He joined the Labour party in 1969, despite his mistrust of Harold Wilson, in order to change the party: now he wants to seize his only chance.

"When Mrs Thatcher was pushed on to her sword so shabbily — at least the Labour party waits for a leader to go of his own volition — the public opinion polls gave a very different view from the MPs. If we had a primaries system operating here, I'd be totally confident of my ability to win."

He has told Mr Smith that there should be no block votes from unions: all trade union members should be balloted. "If they were," he says, "the outcome of this contest could be very different."

A reporter had asked him what role Kate Allen, his partner (she was a contender with Glenda Jackson for the Labour candidacy in Hampstead) would play, and was given a dusty answer. "I said she would not be dragged around with me like Hillary Clinton, holding her husband's hand and

gazing into his eyes. What an insult to women."

He says he likes both Smith and Gould. "They represent completely different strands of British culture, and Labour only wins when it gets both these strands out to vote for it." But he and Bernie Grant are from the same strand: a one-note ticket. "No. This is the first time in the history of Britain a black person has run for deputy leader."

Labour voters may accuse Red Ken of dividing party loyalties: an East European view, he says. "All elections are divisive. This is how democracy works." And as for leading a party doomed by boundary changes never to be able to win? "We got 35 per cent of the vote. The Tories got 41. That is bridgeable."

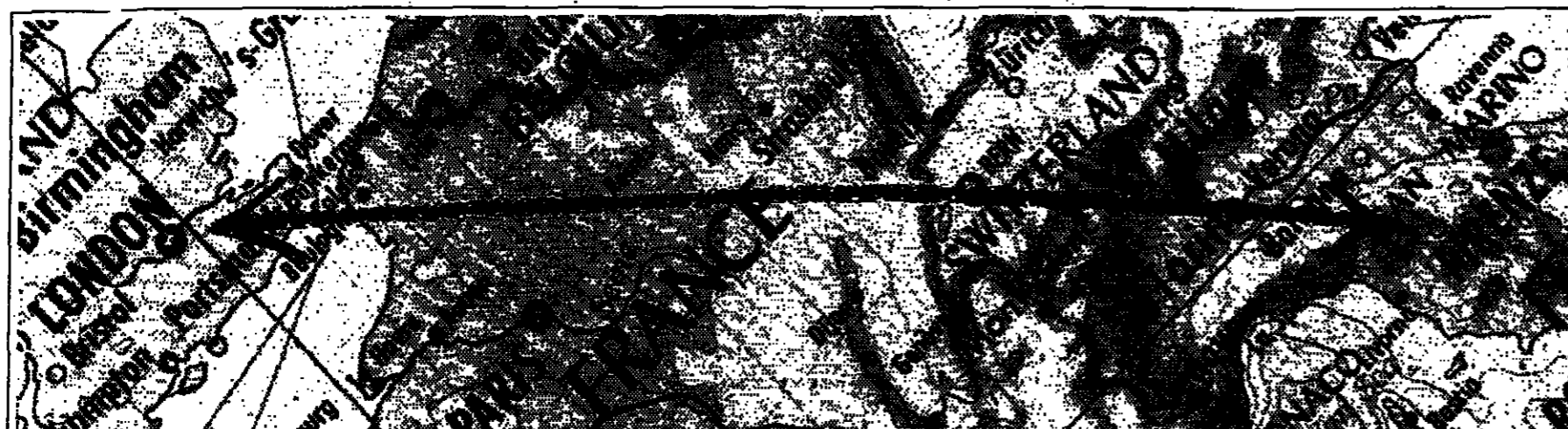
What about Marx's (correct) perception that if people lived like the bourgeoisie, they would begin to vote like the bourgeoisie, according to their material interests? Society, once pyramid-shaped, is now an egg. "Once, the Labour party could get the middle and the bottom of the pyramid to vote together. Thatcher's brilliance was to fracture that. The egg-shaped society is the dilemma for every party in the West: economic policy has to reassure the skilled middle-income workers. I hope this election has pushed home the lesson. If our economic policy won't add up, it is a self-inflicted wound. That's why I'm running. I want a Labour government, and I'd like to lead it."

We walked out into sunny suburban Cricklewood. He pointed out the barricaded windows of its most illustrious resident, Peter O'Toole, and the boundary estate which the Tories plan to sweep into Westminster, thus eliminating Mr Livingstone's majority. Let us not forget his canny, populist, communicative skills. In 1981, in Radio 4's *Man of the Year* contest, he was voted runner-up to the Pope.

Arts 2.3
Modern Times 4.5
Health 6.7
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TV, radio 10

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GALLERIES: LONDON

Gaudy gods and fabulous beasts

In an ideal world, the Whitechapel Art Gallery's Living Wood exhibition ought to be preceded by a flamboyant street procession filled with extravagantly ornamental chariots. For some of the most spectacular carvings displayed inside the gallery were once conveyed, by the Hindus in Tamil Nadu or Pondicherry, around temples during annual festivals.

An entire chariot rests in one corner, encrusted with elaborate relief sculpture that rises in projecting tiers above the wheels. These complex, fantastically intertwined images are intricate enough to adorn a great building. And four winged horses rear up at the front as if to pull the whole unwieldy structure through the sky.

A divinity once crowned the now-empty altar on top of the chariot, sheltered in a pyramidal tower made of blazingly coloured cloth. But the absence of this hallucinatory centrepiece is compensated for nearby. A quartet of colossal *yalis*, the macabre animals who protected the deities inside a chariot's upper pavilion, hang down from the gallery columns. With fangs bared and blood-red claws held out ready to seize unseen enemies, they could hardly look more predatory.

The *yalis*' ferocity is beneficent, however. They may stand on decapitated human heads, but their victims are demons who deserve to be killed. So the animals' leering triumphalism is justified, and their outstretched forelegs show that victory over one wave of aggressors has not blunted their eagerness to do battle again.

Magnificent though the *yalis* and the chariot appear in this highly enjoyable survey of Southern India's sculptural traditions, they have often been undervalued. Most grand collections of Indian art concentrate on far older artefacts, bypassing these carvings because of their relatively recent origin.

The Whitechapel's resplendent chariot was made for one of the Colonial Exhibitions staged in France early in the present century. Its lack of antiquity is no disadvantage, all the same. For this chariot, like the rest of the exhibits, replicates an object conceived far earlier in the country's long history.

Since the Indian climate ensures that wood rots very rapidly, carvings were continually replaced by faithful copies. The objects now assembled at the Whitechapel are therefore directly related to the oldest imperatives in the nation's sculpture. Quite apart from their intrinsic vitality, they stand as the only record of long-perished carvings initially executed many centuries ago.

Even these surviving images have long since ceased to perform the function they once fulfilled. Now sought-after by museums and collectors, most chariots only exist in a dismembered state. But at least the separation of their brackets and panels means each one can be viewed, close to, in all its individual richness. Some turn out to be as aggressive as the *yalis*. In one violent relief, the eight-armed man-lion

Richard Cork reviews a colourful exhibition of religious and ceremonial carvings from Southern India

Narasimha leaps out of a pillar to crush the tyrannical demon Hiranyakashipu in a snarling, lethal embrace. Elsewhere Shiva saves the life of a worshipper by thrusting his trident towards Yama, the long-haired lord of the underworld on a buffalo.

Bellicose scenes are, however, outnumbered by quieter alternatives. Appearing in the guise of Gopala the divine cowherd, Krishna plays a flute so seductively that even the hydra-headed cobras capitulate to his music. In a particularly diverting panel, the four-headed god Brahma performs a lithe dance with the help of cymbals, while luxuriant fronds gush from a monster mask overhead to act as fans and shelter.

The sculptors responsible for chariot decorations were also allowed to give full rein to sexual fantasies at their most rampant. A well-muscled male figure makes love to females with his fingers, toes and tongue as well as his sexual organ. The result is preposterously funny, and comedy verges on farce in another panel where a more conventional coupling is observed, through parted palm leaves, by a diminutive voyeur above.

If this playfulness is replaced by a sterner order of feeling with the advent of the *vahanas*, wooden vehicles which bore gods through the streets at festival time. They give the survey its most mesmerizing moments. In the past, these dazzlingly coloured apparitions were considered vulgar in the West. But now that our eyes have adjusted to high-keyed modern painting at its most exuberant, as well as the brilliance of Mexican folk art, the *vahanas* no longer seem merely garish.

True, the repainted peacock brandishing a coiled snake in its beak hovers perilously close to Hollywood kitsch. Even so, the two images of Kamadhenus, the self-fulfilling cow, look marvellously surreal. Sporting attached eagles' wings and peacocks' tails, these heavily jewelled creatures combine hauteur and eroticism. Their painted heads and generous breasts are those of beautiful women, but the staring eyes and militant stances proclaim the vigilance of sentinels.

So does the startling head of Bhima, a polychromatic extravaganza with bared teeth, elongated ears and gobstopper eyeballs. At once menacing and convivial, this warrior-hero wears a head-dress as towering as the architecture of the temple

where he would be installed at the procession's climax.

Sculpture in Southern India is by no means all focused on festival images, though. Wooden architecture and figure carving are produced by the same craftsmen, and in the late 19th century merchants throughout the Chettinad region built exquisitely decorated houses to celebrate their wealth.

An entire mansion door is displayed at the Whitechapel, alive with proliferating deities, attendants, warriors and plant-life. Some of the most accomplished and inventive pieces turn out to be ceiling struts and doorway brackets produced for domestic interiors. Their vivacity is adrenalin-inducing, especially when compared with the tamer and more dutiful altar figures commissioned for the Christian communities. Heavily reliant on Western models, and above all by the Portuguese cathedrals in Goa, they wallow in a saccharine sentiment which Hindu sculpture shunned.

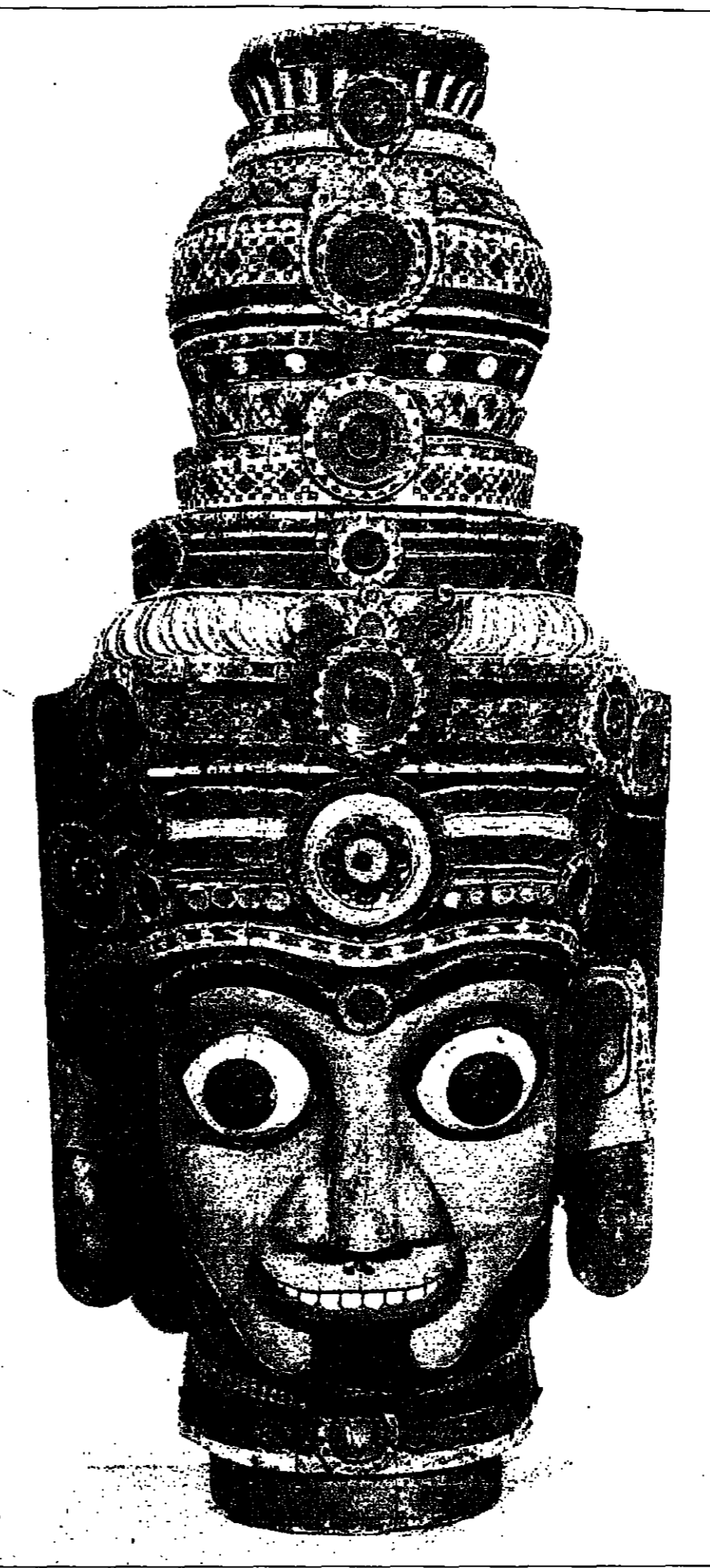
Even here, however, a resilient ethnic spirit reasserts itself. A superb winged female angel, bearing a garland of plump petals as she flies down from heaven, possesses the energy and full-breasted allure of a temple dancer. Her compressed dynamism prepares us for the uninhibited section devoted to carvings from the Hindu temples found in every Kerala village.

Fierce guardian figures kick with irrepressible zest as they frown, wriggle and shake clubs in the air. Their boisterousness burgeons into frenzy in a disconcerting ceiling panel, where the awesome Narasimha tears open his opponent's stomach and rips out the entrails with the relish of a butcher manhandling long strings of sausages.

But the majority of temple carvings are pacific in mood. Among the most engaging is a carving of the youthful Krishna, whose body retains the blue paint so often missing from other figures. Bending his right leg with nonchalant ease, he plays a flute so beguilingly that the attendant gopis sway as they accompany him with cymbals, lotuses or stringed instruments. The joyfulness of their music-making is given ecstatic confirmation above, where abstract swirls galvanise the sky like catherine wheels erupting with infectious abandon.

After such diaphanous exertions, the final section comes as a tonic. Held in trance-like attitudes, the little-known votive images from the coastal district of south Kanara exude serenity. Embodiments of the *bhuta* cult, whereby spirits "possess" human enactors to voice their demands, they sit, stand or ride with spellbound poise. All the writhing superabundance favoured in other regions gives way, at last, to an absolute and utterly conclusive stillness.

Living Wood continues at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (071-337 0107) until May 31.



Head of Bhima, from southern Kerala: a polychromatic extravaganza with bared teeth, elongated ears and gobstopper eyeballs, at once menacing and convivial

GALLERY CHOICE

● **JOHN DAVIES:** Though Davies is known principally as a sculptor, in a minutely realistic style, he is also a draughtsman of considerable force and power. This show, his first in London since 1984, consists entirely of drawings. Even when they seem to be straightforward nudes or portraits, the drawings have a strange, slightly surreal effect, like most of Davies's more recent sculpture.

Other works move into a sort of Kafkaesque no-man's-land, where tortures are applied and unexplained rituals proliferate. If Davies's basic subject is indeed "the universal human face", he does not seem to see it as something most of us would wish to meet alone in a dark alley. Marlborough Graphics, 42 Dover Street, W1 (071-495 2642) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm, until May 16.

● **NIGEL LAMBOURNE** (1919-1988): Very famous in the Fifties as a leading illustrator — the kind who worked for the Folio Society on faintly erotic and delicately rustic subjects — Lambourne withdrew completely from the London art scene in the early Sixties.

He continued to draw and make prints, many never exhibited before this memorial show. A sort of latterday John Buckland-Wright, he could encompass scenes of dynamic movement, notably drawn from the bullfight, but he seems to have been most at home with the nude female figure, which he treated in an infinite variety of poses.

Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath (0225 461111) Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-5pm, until May 16.

● **THE REAL DISNEY:** Long after the first great feature-length Disney cartoons were made, the hand-painted cells which were the basic unit of manufacture were ignored. More recently their potential for exploitation as art works in their own right has been recognised, and while originals from classics like *Snow White* fetch figures up to £115,000 at auction, Disney has been marketing limited-edition reproductions.

This show contains many of the latter and some of the former. A genuine rediscovery, or an art-packer's fantasy? At least a chance to judge for ourselves.

Cato Gallery, 100 Heath Street, NW3 (071-435 6650) Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until May 4.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

MUSEUMS: LONDON

Personal choice that has gone on public display

A couple who set up a small, private museum have been acknowledged with a national arts award. Simon Tait reports

If the Alexanders had tried to pick the worst year to open their kind of enterprise, they could not have chosen better than 1991, one of the worst years ever for tourism. Their Fan Museum was unlikely to knock the Cutty Sark or the Royal Observatory off the itinerary for visitors to Greenwich. Nevertheless, the world's first fan museum opened in two 1720s townhouses in Crooms Hill, southeast London, on May 3, 1991, and has since recorded a modest 8,000 visitors.

Last night at the National Art Collection Fund's dinner at the Savoy Hotel, Mr and Mrs Alexander received one of the five annual awards of £5,000 each for contributions to the visual arts, sponsored by Slough Estates.

The extraordinary collection of Hélène Alexander was the driving force behind the museum. Over 30 years she has gathered more than 2,000 fans of her own, and has developed an expertise and scholarly knowledge which make her a world expert on the subject.

There can be few projects of the kind, engineered by one enthusiastic couple, which can hope to get to the planning stage, let alone open to the public. The NACF award places the Fan Museum in the same category as the most professionally run independent museums in the country.

The two houses, once owned by the regional health authority, had been used as a nurses' hostel and then abandoned for two years. They were wrecks when they were bought for the Fan Museum Trust in 1985 by the Victor Adda Foundation, the trust having been founded a year before.

"The place was infested with wet and dry rot, there was long-horn beetle in the roof; it was a terrible mess," says



Hélène Alexander with part of her collection of fans

Dicky Alexander, a retired insurance broker. "But I said to Hélène, 'If we're to do this, we're to do it with a proper business plan and if the figures don't add up, forget it. We did the sums, and it looked possible.'"

There were setbacks, of course. Costs began to spiral and Alexander sacked the contractor, taking on the project management himself and halving the building expenses. The whole thing cost £1.75 million, with some money coming from English Heritage and the English Tourist Board, and sponsorship from Legal and General Assurance.

Not only does the museum

exhibit fans — it has had about 200 given to it since the opening — it makes them to order. Mrs Alexander made a series to commemorate the Queen Mother's 90th birthday.

Other recipients of a £5,000 award last night were the Whitechapel Art Gallery (latest exhibition reviewed above) for its community education programme; the *Art Newspaper*, launched in 1990; Colin Riches's art centre inside HM Albany maximum security prison on the Isle of Wight; and Homerton Hospital's art trust, which was set up five years ago by a surgeon to brighten up the otherwise blank walls of the hospital in the east end of London.

COMMENT

Awards confusion reaches a critical stage

Sunday's Olivier Awards, under the auspices of the Society of West End Theatre, round off the thespian prize-giving season.

Matt Wolf argues that the ground-rules need to be clarified



Rivals? Jason Donovan (left) and Alan Bennett, Olivier Award nominees

Eyre's exemplary production at the National Theatre.

Had the nominating committee not liked the performance, they could have ignored it altogether. But to classify as "supporting" an actress performing one of the three or four major roles Tennessee Williams ever wrote for women is to pay Atkins a backhanded compliment.

Elsewhere it is the same mix of apples and oranges that two years ago saw Michael Gambon win actor of the year in a comedy, even though the play he was in — Alan Ayckbourn's *Man of the Moment* — was nominated for best play, not best comedy.

Choreography is always good for a raised eyebrow, as was the case last year when Terry John Bates found his Dionysiac first act frenzy in *Dancing at Lughnasa* set against Charles Augins's all-stop-out athleticism in *Five Guys Named Moe*, the eventual winner. This year, Steven Berkoff's ritualistic mime exercise *The Trial* competes against the dance show *Tango Argentino*. In context, it is amazing the committee did not nominate Maggie Smith in this category for her witty

and animated wrist movements several years back in *Letting the Sun Shine* and *Letting the Sun Shine*.

The musical category needs a complete overhaul and not the one Cameron Mackintosh suggested when *Miss Saigon* lost to *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. Last year, the two musical-of-the-year nominees

were both by Stephen Sondheim: *Into the Woods* and *Sunday in the Park with George*. This year, the nominees are a 1943 Oscar Hammerstein II rewrite of Bizet, *Carmen Jones*, and Ken Hill's jokey eight-year-old version of *Phantom of the Opera*. Much better instead a best musical

production category embracing all musicals, whether new or revivals.

The opera and dance categories, by contrast, are too much of a catch-all to be convincing, with performers being asked to compete against companies and even entire theatres. The special Kenneth Tynan award for outstanding achievement regularly posits such embarrassment, pitting performers against directors against institutions.

If Vanessa Redgrave was so fine in *When She Danced* why not nominate her as best actress? The same is true of Danny Boyle, whose direction of *The Last Days of Don Juan* at the RSC should either have been cited in the best director category or not at all. But to make both these gifted artists compete for the Tynan award against Russia's Maly Theatre, not to mention west London's tiny Gate Theatre, demeans all concerned.

Such thoughts, of course, tend to vanish in the rush of adrenalin when the most important envelope is opened. But the Society of West End Theatre might do well to attend to these issues before this event, and before its incongruities come around again next year.

THE BROADWAY BOUND

AN UNDILUTED JOY... FILM REVIEW

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Home movies from the global village

Musicians around the world are making their own low-budget videos to challenge the glossy products on satellite television.

David Toop finds out that £100 can buy a lot of ingenuity

Marshall McLuhan's vision of the world as a global village has lost much of its glib appeal in recent years. Television has spread a heightened awareness of the profound cultural, religious and political schisms that partition the globe. Earth may be a hamlet, electronically, but the villagers are still strangers.

Yet television has also played a part in resurrecting the notion. Pop videos are beamed down from satellites on to most of the earth's surface, their imagery and values as influential as Hollywood cinema or Australian soaps. The nonstop screening by companies such as MTV of Euro-American videos to Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America should make us pause to consider the possible long-term effects of one-way cultural traffic.

There is, however, a small valley of return fire coming from musicians who are unhappy with the idea of being swamped with images and music which have no direct relevance to their own country. The first film in a new series of BBC 2's *Rhythms of the World* examines an upsurge of music video production arising in the developing world and in immigrant communities.

For local artists, in West Africa, Singapore and Santa Domingo, as well as the British Asian stars of Punjabi Bhangra music, video is fast becoming an essential element in both promotion and creative expression. In terms of expensive effects and ambitious staging, the pop videos featured in Jenny Cathcart's film, *Put Me On A VHS*, cannot compete with the promotional epics of Michael Jackson, yet many of them have a local character that is fascinating and exciting in its own right.

The Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour is unusual for having followed both routes. His music is characterised by a dynamic weave of West African musical and story-telling traditions, rock and soul influences, and technological innovation. One of his videos, created to promote a song called "Albours", is contrasted in the BBC 2 film with a collaboration between Youssou and Peter Gabriel. This latter track, "Shaking the Tree", was released by Virgin records and accompanied by a picturesque, glossy video directed by Isaac Julien, director of the feature film *Young Soul Rebels*. Youssou is too diplomatic to admit it, but the resultant effort was packed with colonial clichés: babab trees, strikingly attractive African women staring into camera, colourful African fabrics and wood-

en boats. As he suggests, with great tact, "the 'Shaking the Tree' video had beautiful images, but in terms of ideas, it is hardly stronger than the 'Albours' video."

In terms of budget, Youssou estimates the difference as being between 20,000 and 300,000 French francs. His own video may suffer from shaky camera work and poor lighting, but with its elabo-



Juan-Luis Guerra: Merengue star

'The best location for our videos is our own habitat, our own country. That's where our folklore is, the things we sing about'

ately costumed portrayal of the Wolof king, Albours, and his entourage, in the unique surroundings of Dakar's railway station, the harmony between images, words and music overcomes any technical shortcomings and drives home Youssou's assertion that "those who are interested in African music should go to its source."

Attitudes to production values vary. In the Dominican Republic, Juan-Luis Guerra is one of the leading exponents of the frantic local dance rhythm known as

Merengue. He is determined to promote his own culture by using high standards of equipment, as well as technical expertise learned in the United States, and his videos mix digital effects and cartoon graphics with documentary realism using large casts, strong local flavour and exotic costumes. "The best location for our videos is our own habitat, our own country," he insists. "That's where our folklore is, the things we sing about."

In Trinidad and Tobago, Soca music is descended from calypso. In both cases, the lyrics carry local news, gossip and the frequently inflammatory opinions of the singer. Soca stars such as David Rudder are uninterested in expensive, high technology productions. Instead, they attempt to create visuals which are sufficiently vibrant, heartfelt and local to offset the need for big budgets.

Without huge international sales and the backing of a large record company, a budget is an imaginary concept anyway. "Average budget?" laughs Tony Hall, the producer of Rudder's video for a song called "The Hammer". "The budgets are non-existent. A little over £100, if you can imagine that."

Operating capital that small encourages ingenuity, at least. Hall describes the burning of bushes as a workable substitute for a smoke machine. "The Hammer" makes clever use of fire as a motif, as well as showing locations in Port of Spain and scenes of steel pan orchestras, all of which are integral to the meaning of the song. He also cites musicians in Trinidad who simply shoot DIY videos on amateur equipment, paste new labels on the tape boxes and sell the finished product themselves — the textbook example of "access technology" in action.

In Singapore, where there is more money, pop star Dick Lee likes to dream about having a high-tech video to accompany his records. This is what every musician desires, he believes, even if they don't believe in the necessity of such costly promotional devices. Lee's own videos are relatively low-tech, and absurd, but much in the style of the BBC's *Rough Guide* series — they make imaginative use of hand-held camera, digital effects, street scenes, rolling captions, and computer text. His music, ranging from Beach Boys-style harmonies to rap, demands an unusual approach.

"I am Asian and proud of it," Lee says. "I don't feel like a Samurai or chairman Mao. I'm something new." He likens the new young Asian to a banana — white inside



Youssou N'Dour, combining ethnic and western influences: "Those who are interested in African music should go to its source."

and yellow outside. "Asian identity is the key to Asian pop music," he insists.

Such changing self-assessments by the executives who run satellite television networks and media corporations. At MTV they are conscious of the need for a sensitive approach to the differing requirements of their various territories, yet inevitably, the vision of a global network run to American standards dominates their programming.

To secure the Brazilian market, MTV had to agree to balance the usual international pop with a 50 per cent share of Brazilian videos. In practice, this meant that MTV worked with Brazilian musicians to produce sufficient videos to fill the hours of screen time. Tom Hunter, the vice-president of MTV International, cheerfully agrees that his company even helped bands to choose which of their tracks would be most suited to video. The implication is clear: the closer that local musicians are prepared to

move towards a global language of sound, style and visual appearance, the greater their eventual access to the communications networks.

Thus is McLuhan's aphorism "The medium is the message" confirmed. For all musicians — not just Michael Jackson, Genesis or Madonna — the stakes are high. "By the year 2000," claims Mark Kingston, of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, "I expect that music and music videos will be providing the stimulus and the visuals for the global

revolution of communication that Marshall McLuhan prophesied. We will have a situation where most of the world will be able to receive any kind of music it wants."

Once local pop musicians realise the communicative power of music shown on television, they will certainly want to beam their videos back to the developed world. Whether the developed world will supply the medium they want is another matter.

Put Me On A VHS will be shown on BBC 2 on Saturday, April 25, 9.30pm.

Putting science under the microscope

New books by Bryan Appleyard and Mary Midgley have taken a critical look at the idea that science is a panacea not only for everyday ills but also for moral and spiritual problems. Next month *The Times*, in association with Dillons and Picador, is sponsoring a debate, chaired by Melvyn Bragg, on the motion "The Heartless Truths of Science Strip Man of His Spiritual Dignity". Fay Weldon will speak for it; Professor Lewis Wolpert, Professor of Biology as Applied to Medicine at University College, London, will oppose it. For tickets, please fill in the coupon below.

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Congressmen treading red-hot water

US politicians have been passing bad cheques — and the voters don't like it

In Wellington, a tidy little mid-western town surrounded by vast expanses of vivid green wheatfields, two dozen Rotary Club members said prayers, pledged allegiance to the flag, sang the national anthem and sat down to hear their congressman, Dan Glickman, begin with a joke. A rabbi, a Hindu priest and a congressman had to shelter from a storm one night in a Kansas farmer's barn, he said. First the rabbi knocked on the farmer's door, saying he could not share a barn with pigs. Then the Hindu asked to be taken in because he could not share with cows. Then came the cows and pigs.

This is no time to be an American congressman. The disclosure that 300 of them wrote bad cheques worth millions of dollars at the private House bank without incurring any penalties was the final straw. Those congressmen are now back in their districts for the Easter recess and having to face their enraged constituents.

Mr Glickman, a short, plumpish, balding man of engaging candour, wrote 105 bad cheques worth \$20,000. His self-deprecating humour saved him at the Rotary lunch, but not elsewhere, as he spent the day touring outlying communities trying to salvage his credibility.

At a high school in Oxford that

morning a teenage boy bluntly demanded to know what was happening to the cheque "kickers". After the Rotary lunch a television crew collared Mr Glickman to ask if this was "the major blunder of your political career", and for a full hour the editor of the *Winfield Daily Courier* (circulation 6,000) grilled him on the issue.

Ordinary Kansans tend not to accost Mr Glickman directly, but they do not mind their words in private. This, after all, is bible-belt country, the moral as well as physical heartland of America. "I was shocked, very shocked. I couldn't believe it," said Gary Cochran, a Boeing quality control inspector from Wichita. As Mr Glickman would not willingly give up his ride on the gravy train, voters should chuck him out, wrote Rick Sage in one of several irate readers' letters to the *Wichita Eagle*.

Mr Glickman's Republican opponents pursued him with a big rubber cheque during a St Patrick's Day parade in Wichita last month. "That bank has caused me more grief than the history of the world," Mr Glickman confessed. In November it could conceivably cost him the seat he has held for 16 years, and with 71 per cent of the vote in 1990. He is not even sure he will run again. "It's the worst sort of issue you can imagine," he did



Checks and balances: Dan Glickman replying to constituents

nothing wrong but it's irrefutable. You can't explain it."

The House bank scandal is indeed overblown. No laws were broken, no taxpayers' money abused. Congressmen were essentially borrowing against their next month's salary. But ordinary Americans can be fined or even imprisoned for running up overdrafts, and the story confirmed their conviction that Congress has be-

come a cosy, elitist club utterly out of touch with real people and their problems. It was the "gasoline on the fire," said Mr Glickman.

The extent of the American public's alienation from Washington is hard to overstate. Capitol Hill has produced scandal after scandal in the last few years — unpaid restaurant bills, drug dealing and embezzlement in the House post office, handsome pay rises ap-

proved at dead of night. At the same time Congress has failed to tackle the ever-rising budget deficit, soaring health care costs, the political influence of big money or any of the other issues Mr Glickman's constituents repeatedly raise with him.

A *Wall Street Journal* poll last week put public approval of Congress at 15 per cent, the lowest ever. Seventy-one per cent believed it was contributing to, not solving, the country's problems. Half believed the institution was corrupt. "The US has entered a period of political alienation and turmoil the likes of which we have experienced only a few times in our history," said Kevin Phillips, a leading political analyst.

That analysis is broadly shared by Mr Glickman, who is one of Washington's more constructive and thoughtful congressmen. But he believes, the system is resilient and the people will find some way to take it back, quite possibly by ejecting congressmen in record numbers this November.

Mr Glickman is determined not to be one of them. By apologising, he is seeking to defuse the scandal, and he is reseeking the reformer's mantle which carried him and many of his generation into office post-Watergate.

On the back seat of Mr Glickman's car was a new book called *Who Will Tell The People? The Betrayal of American Democracy*, with key passages underlined. He has gone through "great personal soul-searching about why I am in this job," he said. He acknowledged that under Washington's corrosive influence he had become "less of a reformer than I was."

He now advocates a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced federal budget, drastic campaign finance reform to eliminate big money influence and other sweeping changes. He may even give back the \$135,000 he has received from lobby groups for this year's campaign.

MARTIN FLETCHER

Wh

A Barnett

Newman work badly damaged

six years ago, is

at the centre of

a restoration

drama. Sarah

Jane Checkland

reports

When he produced *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue III* a quarter of a century ago, Barnett Newman believed that his painting of three bold stripes conveyed "awesome feelings about the unknowable." The canvas, nearly 15ft by 5ft, was part of the American artist's aim to symbolise "nationalism, post-war world war chaos, and then fill the viewer with a sense of new beginnings."

The painting was bought in 1967 for \$75,000 (now \$4,500) by the Stedelijk Museum, in Amsterdam, a pre-war contemporary art gallery financed by the local council. By the mid 1980s, the art market boom had inflated the painting's valuation to \$2.1 million.

But on March 21, 1986, a visitor with a grudge against contemporary art slashed the red section of the canvas four times horizontally and four times diagonally, from top left to bottom right. The council agreed to finance the task of repairing the cuts and mending up the tears.

The project was approached with fastidious caution. Paintings from earlier eras offer both subject matter and brush texture in which the restorer can hide his retouchings. A painting of nothing but flat stripes offers no such refuge.

Six years after the attack, the painting is back at the Stedelijk Museum. But the museum is not only faced with a bill of Dfl 814,000 (£250,000) from Daniel Goldreyer, a New York restorer of contemporary paintings, but also with a bill against two members of its staff totalling \$50 million after it was alleged that, rather than retouching the canvas, Mr Goldreyer had repainted it — with a roller.

According to a report submitted to Amsterdam council by the city's mayor, Mr Goldreyer was chosen to undertake repair and retouching of *Who's Afraid* following a warm recommendation by Annalee Greenhouse, Newman's widow.

At the time, Elizabeth Bracht, the Stedelijk's chief restorer, said she did not feel she had adequate experience to undertake such a challenge. The contract for restoration was drawn up in March 1988, with an agreed price of \$270,000. All the members of the committee involved (including Wim Boeren, the museum's director, and Mrs Bracht), believed work was progressing well until March 1991. Aan Baak, the alderman with overall responsibility for the museum, wrote to Mr Goldreyer asking him to hurry up and finish. On

Buried

NEXT week, Ukrainian and Russian delegations are due to meet in Odessa to debate the future of the Crimean Sea fleet. Tension within the peninsula has risen over the states' competing claims for control of the fleet and its base, the city of Sevastopol. This is not the first time the Crimea and its fleet has been argued over. Almost 140 years ago, in the Crimean war of 1854 to 1856, no fewer than 21,000 British servicemen died in the peninsula in an attempt to capture Sevastopol and neutral an earlier Black Sea fleet. Now, those British dead are to be commemorated with the planned building of a memorial on Cathcart's Hill, overlooking Sevastopol. Eight thousand British troops are buried on Cathcart's Hill, most of them reinterred there in the decade after the Crimean war. They had been initially buried where they fell, in hundreds of graves all over the peninsula. The cemetery was gradually returned to nature since the Russian revolution of 1917 and had sustained considerable damage from the Luftwaffe, Tartar farmers and a few years. Foreigners were unable to visit the graves because Sevastopol was a closed city.

What's red, blue and haggled over?

A Barnett

Newman work,
badly damaged
six years ago, is
at the centre of
a restoration
drama. Sarah
Jane Checkland
reports

When he produced *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue II* a quarter of a century ago, Barnett Newman believed that his painting of three bold stripes conveyed "awesome feelings about the unknowable". The canvas, nearly 18ft by 8ft, was part of the American artist's aim to symbolise rationality over post world war chaos, and thereby fill the viewer with a sense of new beginnings.

The painting was bought in 1969 for \$75,000 (now \$43,000) by the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, a go-ahead contemporary art gallery financed by the local council. By the mid-1980s, the art market boom had inflated the painting's valuation to \$3.1 million.

But, on March 21, 1986, a visitor with a grudge against contemporary art slashed the red section of the canvas four times diagonally, from top left to bottom right. The council agreed to finance the task of repairing the cuts and touching up the tears.

The project was approached with fastidious caution. Paintings from earlier eras offer both subject matter and brush texture in which the restorer can hide his retouchings. A painting of nothing but flat stripes offers no such refuge.

Six years after the attack, the painting is back at the Stedelijk Museum. But the museum is not only facing a bill of Dfl 814,000 (£250,000) from Daniel Goldreyer, a New York restorer of contemporary paintings, but also writs by him against two members of its staff totalling \$50 million after it was alleged that, rather than retouching the canvas, Mr Goldreyer had repainted it — with a roller.

According to a report submitted to Amsterdam council by the city's mayor, Mr Goldreyer was chosen to undertake repair and retouching of *Who's Afraid* following a warm recommendation by Annalee Greenhouse, Newman's widow.

At the time, Elizabeth Bracht, the Stedelijk's chief restorer, said she did not feel she had adequate experience to undertake such a challenge. The contract for restoration was drawn up in March 1988, with an agreed price of \$270,000. All the members of the committee involved including Wim Beeren, the museum's director, and Mrs Bracht, believed work was progressing well until March 1991. Aan Baak, the alderman with overall responsibility for the museum, wrote to Mr Goldreyer asking him to hurry up and finish. On

"Paintings from earlier eras offer subject matter and brush texture in which the restorer can hide his retouchings. Flat stripes offer no such refuge": Barnett Newman's *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue III*

March 16, Mr Beeren saw the painting, and declared himself satisfied.

A few days later, however, the report says, "the head of conservation [Mrs Bracht, who had visited New York on behalf of the committee] informed him the painting had been painted over". The director duly told the committee of Mrs Bracht's misgivings, but still thought the work was fine. Shortly afterwards, according to the report, Mr Beeren received a bill for unspecified extra work from Mr Goldreyer. It came with a letter saying that all correspondence should henceforth be conducted



Tattered masterpiece: the work after the attack in 1986

through lawyers.

In June, Mr Beeren sought the help of the New York office of Nauta Dutilh, Amsterdam's municipal lawyers, and succeeded in reopening the dialogue with Mr Goldreyer. It was arranged that on August 1 Mr Beeren should go to Mr Goldreyer's studio on Long Island to fetch the painting.

According to the mayor's report, when he got there, he found himself faced with a receipt in which he was required to declare that the painting had been restored to its original state.

The mediating lawyer per-

suaded Mr Goldreyer to amend the receipt to say the painting was merely in "good and satisfactory condition", and Mr Beeren, travelled home with his trophy.

In fact, although there was surprise at Mr Goldreyer's higher, amended bill, the committee was unable to sit in judgment because they had no means of telling, with the naked eye, whether the restoration was any good. The painting just looked like three stripes, but if it had been repainted, as alleged by Mrs Bracht, rather than retouched, its valuation of \$3 million would be in question. The

optimistically guessed at an 85 per cent successful completion. Mr Goldreyer wrote: "Furthermore, its cotton canvas had become distorted and bulged, quite possibly permanently warped".

Conservation, he wrote, entailed first constructing a special platform on which the "solidifying, stabilising, re-adhering and reweaving" of the eight slashed areas could take place. The temporary rice paper patches fixed over the slashes by Mrs Bracht were removed, as were the splinters of paint from the thousands of torn and loose threads. The cut fibres of the cotton canvas were "matched thread-to-thread", each slash then being reinforced with a polyvinyl adhesive.

The "exacting and tedious weaving process" was, he said, carried out by himself and two assistants, and was approved by Mrs Bracht in June 1988. One year later, the painting was refined to reinforce the work so far.

In February 1990, Mr Goldreyer said, he was able to progress to the painting's surface. This was cleaned, first with a detergent mixture to remove surface soil, and then with a mild alcohol solution diluted with gum turpentine. "When this process was completed," Mr Goldreyer wrote, "we sealed the slashed areas with a fibre filler." Mrs

Bracht visited again in June 1990, and was "pleased with the results". The artist's widow also visited, in November, and was "very pleased".

The final phase began early last year, offered the biggest challenge. In his account, Mr Goldreyer referred to the "optical translucent qualities" of Newman's work, and said that these were obtained by using an oil base as an underpaint, each layer thinly applied. The method used to obtain this transluence, he said, was to "pinpoint colour only in the missing areas with a different balance of the same pigment

in various thin layers, so that the transluence remained".

After final approval by Mrs Newman, Mr Goldreyer said he had the painting sealed with Buyl Methacrylate Polymer (a modern acrylic varnish) in a benzene base "with several light mist sprays to catch the original patina".

Mr Goldreyer's report convinced Mr Beeren. On October 7 last year, he published his own paper on the restoration in which he said that, within the committee, Mrs Bracht was alone in her misgivings. Mrs Bracht spoke to the Dutch press which duly reported her allegation that, in her opinion, Mr Goldreyer had carried out a perfect restoration until the last moment, when he repainted the picture's surface with a roller.

The council decided to make further enquiries about Mr Goldreyer's methods. This time they turned to the Dutch judicial laboratory, to analyse the composition of the restored painting. The conclusions

showed some variance with the Goldreyer version.

According to the research scientists, the parts of the painting they investigated had a very light coat of varnish above the red layers of paint. This varnish is allyd (a syn-

thesis of allyl and allylamine).

Mr Goldreyer's office also offered "no comment".

On April 6, Alderman Baak felt obliged to resign. It seems that the Amsterdam city fathers hope that, with the resignation of Mrs Baak and the payment of Mr Goldreyer's amended bill, they can now consider the matter closed. According to Mr Beeren, the painting "will keep its place in the collection as a Newman with a history of

destruction and restoration".

Meanwhile, as neither of the people Mr Goldreyer has named in his law suit — Mr Beeren for failing to defend the restoration adequately and Mrs Bracht for being rude about his restoration — can afford to pay the compensation he is asking, it is hoped Mr Goldreyer, too, will fade away.

But, even if Mr Goldreyer obliges, the *Who's Afraid* saga may not end here. The Amsterdam council's lawyers are still deciding whether to claim compensation from Mr Goldreyer and art, it is understood, considering further tests.

What does Amsterdam do if it turns out that the painting was rolled? Do they start the restoration project all over again? Already, a group of eminent Dutch restorers have advocated the use of a machine that removes allyd paint by bombarding the painting's surface with particles of apricot. And so the farce looks set to continue.

The painting 'will keep its place in the collection as a Newman with a history of destruction and restoration'

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Buried, but not forgotten

There is a corner of a Crimean field that, it is hoped, will stay British

NEXT week, Ukrainian and Russian delegations are due to meet in Odessa to debate the future of the Crimea-based Black Sea fleet. Tension within the peninsula has risen over the states' competing claims for control of the fleet and its base, the city of Sevastopol.

This is not the first time the Crimea and its fleet has been argued over. Almost 140 years ago, in the Crimean war of 1854 to 1856, no fewer than 21,000 British servicemen died in the peninsula in an attempt to capture Sevastopol and neutral an earlier Black Sea fleet. Now, those British dead are to be commemorated, with the planned building of a memorial on Cathcart's Hill, overlooking Sevastopol.

Eight thousand British troops are buried on Cathcart's Hill, most of them reinterred there in the decade after the Crimean war. They had been initially buried where they fell, in hundreds of graves all over the peninsula. The cemetery had gradually returned to nature since the Russian revolution of 1917 and had sustained considerable damage from the Luftwaffe, Tartar farmers and Russian bulldozers in the past few years. Foreigners were unable to visit the graves because Sevastopol was, and remains, a closed military

area. The site has, however, now been viewed by David Gladstone, the British chargé d'affaires in Ukraine, and Lieutenant Commander Robin Davies, the assistant naval attaché in Moscow. Lt Cdr

he says. "I've received some cheques already, both from the regiments and members of the public who responded to the appeal." With luck, work will begin next month and be completed by October.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has assisted in the design of the memorial, which will be maintained by Sevastopol council. The design is simple and in Victorian style. "What we have gone for is a memorial in keeping with the period, similar to other ones built in the 1850s," Lt Col Lancaster says.

The memorial will be erected in a part of the old cemetery. Plans have been drawn up for a 25ft high white obelisk of local stone surrounded by a wall engraved with the names of every regiment and ship which took part in the campaign.

When Lt Col Lancaster first visited the Crimea, in March 1991, he was not allowed to

'My own regiment won the first ever Victoria Crosses'

visit Sevastopol. But he did manage to pay his respects at the Russo-British cemetery at Alma, 20 miles along the coast, where the first, crucial, engagement of the war was fought. "My own regiment, the Scots Guards, won the first ever Victoria Crosses at Alma. I was determined to go there," he says.

The Scots Guards were awarded five Victoria Crosses after Alma, and subsequent VC's have been struck from the barrels of the Russian guns captured there by the allied British, French and Turkish forces.

Lt Col Lancaster found the last resting place of seven Royal Welch Fusiliers in the cemetery at Alma, half hidden under a broken marble sarcophagus. "It was a very sad sight," Lt Cdr Davies says. But not for much longer: the Royal Welch and the Ministry of Defence now intend to fund the repair of the graves, and a small corner of a foreign field will be reclaimed.

ROBERT SEELY

Contributions to the appeal should be made payable to Household Division Funds and sent to Lt Col J.A.S. Lancaster MBE, Headquarters Foot Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ.

A woman naturally fit for office

Virginia Bottomley, the new health secretary, tells Victoria McKee about her personal prescription for a healthy life

The new Secretary of State for Health, Virginia Bottomley, is happy to talk about the nation's health but coy when it comes to speaking about her own.

This is possibly because she is such a splendidly healthy specimen. She has a naturally slim physique which has never yo-yo'd up and down on a string of diets, and a "jolly hockey sticks" approach to exercise that depends more on occasionally reviving schoolgirl sports than anything involving leotards and leg warmers.

One of that estimated 15 per cent of women who does not consider (let alone count) calories, she is delighted to eat whatever meal one of her three children (two grown, one still at school) dishes up to her. "I have my own culinary skills and am not renowned."

"Plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables and avoiding fats are the key elements of our diet," Mrs Bottomley says. "And we're eating fewer sauces and puddings. It's a common sense approach rather than any food fads or special diets."

"I'm not an adherent of an enormously prescriptive approach."

Although her appointment to the Cabinet was hailed with predictable allusions to "Nurse" Virginia, she made it clear this week that she will not be running the nation into swagging any unpalatable strict regulations.

"Too many complex and conflicting messages are counterproductive," she says. "I want to make them simple and straightforward — and to make the information that people need in order to make intelligent choices easily available."

Her department's white paper on the health of the nation, expected during the summer, will do just that, she promises. "We need to make healthy living easy for people. I'm absolutely certain that healthy eating and regular exercise are important, and I think it is important that we at the Department of Health work very closely with the Ministry of Agriculture on

getting food messages across." But when asked to describe — as she had agreed to do — the simple health messages she has heeded in her own life, Mrs Bottomley murmurs about "playing tennis or taking a swim at the weekend — and taking active holidays."

Holidays provide the physical and psychological release which she considers a vital counterpoint to sedentary and stressful ministerial duty. "Each Easter and summer we go to the Isle of Wight as a family — to what was my childhood home — and have a real 'Swallows and Amazons' holiday," she says. "I have an enormous extended family there and it's a real time to switch off as well as an area of stability and continuity in our lives, which is so important."

"We do a lot of walking — we had the traditional Easter Monday

'Health is not something you just talk about, like the weather'

walk this week — and play beach hockey, and in the summer we sail. We also row — my daughter and I won the ladies double sculling championship there two years ago."

Both Mrs and Mr Bottomley are keen participants in sporting events organised through the House of Commons football team.

Mrs Bottomley's husband, Peter, is MP for Epsom and a former transport and Northern Ireland minister. Mrs Bottomley excels at rowing and her husband, a parliamentary swimming champion, captains the House of Commons football team.

Mrs Bottomley is happy that her children are also fit and sporty. "They're all fairly energetic," she says. "And there are no serious weight problems in the family."

If she does gain a few pounds she simply eats less. "With a busy life at the moment, I'm obviously involved in a great number of official meals," she says, "but I only drink tap water at lunch, although I'll have a glass of wine in the evening, and I seldom eat three courses."

As someone who has worked in the NHS, as a psychiatric social worker, she is committed to it and shuns private health treatment for herself or her family.



Crisp philosophy: Virginia Bottomley argues for simple messages, healthy eating and regular exercise, as well as avoiding stress

She believes strongly in the value of health screening and other preventive measures which, she says, will help to give us a health service rather than a disease service, and is enthusiastic about the concept of a patient's charter which she hopes will make patients feel they can approach GPs even if they are not feeling acutely ill.

"The changes introduced in the GP contract have put an important emphasis on preventive medicine," she says, "and we have the best cervical and breast cancer screening programme in the EC. I think most people now accept that they want to be partners in their health care rather than passive recipients,

and women in particular are concerned with this." Because of this conviction that women are the keepers of the family health, Mrs Bottomley launched *Your Health: A Guide to Services for Women*, a 32-page free booklet, while she was minister of state for health.

She is proud of that initiative, and sees it as an important part of her job to continue to meet regularly with women's groups and to involve them in what the health department is doing. "To find ways to cascade our health messages more widely through women's organisations, to let them know that health is not something you

just talk about, like the weather, but something you can take steps to do something about."

On the question of hormone replacement therapy (HRT), considered a fad by some and a health boom by others, she is cautious. "There is no panacea for eternal youth but in certain instances, for preventing osteoporosis, or if I felt it was warranted for other reasons, I might consider it," she says. "HRT has played a very important part in a great number of women's lives and we've got more research programmes under way in this area."

Most health fads — high and low impact aerobics, jogging, "stepping" — have, like diets, passed her

by. "I tried a keep-fit class once about eight years ago, but didn't really have the time to keep it up," she says, "and when I became an MP I joined the House of Commons gymnasium where they assessed me as very healthy so I didn't really see much need to go back."

"I do feel very healthy," she says, "and do make a point of doing something active each weekend. I need the weekend at home with my family, and to have at least one day of quiet to mull over in my mind. I think that's very important — even then there's never a day that's completely free from the 'boxes' for every minister that's a lovely dream."

Shadow lifts from islands

A Caribbean campaign has kept cholera at bay

Trinidad and Tobago's annual carnival drew thousands of determined revellers from nearby South America last month, but thanks to a government-backed health campaign the islands were not visited by cholera.

Since the outbreak of the disease two years ago in Peru, where 3,000 people have died, cholera has spread to 15 Central and South American countries.

Venezuela is only seven miles away from Trinidad and Tobago. Given the continual coming and going between that country, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago health minister, thought it was inevitable cholera would spread to the islands. Were imported cases to touch off even a minor epidemic in Trinidad, the blow to foreign tourism would be devastating all along the Caribbean island chain.

But almost two months after the carnival and the influx of potential cholera carriers, there are no reported cases.

Though thoroughly alarmed at the virulence and speed of the initial Peru outbreak, the Trinidad and Tobago authorities rejected any idea of cancelling the carnival. Instead, the government shouldered full responsibility for protecting its population (1.5 million, 47,000 of them in Tobago) and beyond them the other Windward and Leeward Islands.

For months before the carnival a health campaign featured large in newspapers, radio and television. All air and sea travellers were handed health alert cards telling them to consult a doctor immediately if any symptoms appeared.

Information packs went to schools. Leaflets, lectures and films were directed to everyone involved in preparing and distributing food.

Some health experts feared that reasonable standards of hygiene had bred excessive public complacency in the islands. Others, it seems, have been justified in their belief that in a society 95 per cent literate the government's warnings and vigilance would serve to halt the disease in its tracks, so earning the gratitude of all the Caribbean.

ALAN MCGREGOR

A suitable case for treatment

Waiting for the result of a cervical smear can be traumatic — now there is the hope of a clearer diagnosis

For many women the wait for news of the results of a cervical smear test is more uncomfortable than the test itself. A letter asking them to ring their doctor or informing them that they have mild, moderate or severe dyskaryosis (abnormalities) can frighten even the calmest.

But the smear test is not a test for cervical cancer — although developed cancer may be picked up. It is a test for a condition of cells that may precede cancer and which can usually be cured with laser treatment. Women who have moderate or severe dyskaryosis can be treated at once. The problem lies with those women diagnosed as "mild" who are on the borderline.

Of the five million women in Britain who have cervical smear tests each year to detect early traces of cancer, about 250,000 show slight abnormalities. For most women with slightly abnormal smears, their cells will revert to normal within a few months. But in 75,000 of these cases they may have an important underlying disease. Until now doctors have had no way of distinguishing these cases.

Now scientists believe they have come up with more efficient screening for cancer. A team from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, University College, London and the University College, Nottingham, has shown that the smears on these borderline cases can be monitored for high levels of human papilloma virus HPV16, which they believe gives a good indication of whether more serious disease is likely.

Jack Cuzick, a scientist at the research fund and one of the co-authors of the study which was published in *The Lancet* last week, believes that this will make a significant difference. "If a woman has moderate or severe abnormalities she will immediately be given a colposcopy. This involves a physical examination of the

cervix with a microscope which will show the extent of the problem.

"But when a woman is diagnosed as mild, it depends on where she lives as to how she is treated. In some areas these women are offered smear tests at shorter intervals and are only referred for treatment if the disease persists. This is taking a risk. Elsewhere they are offered colposcopy but this can be distressing and is very expensive," he says.

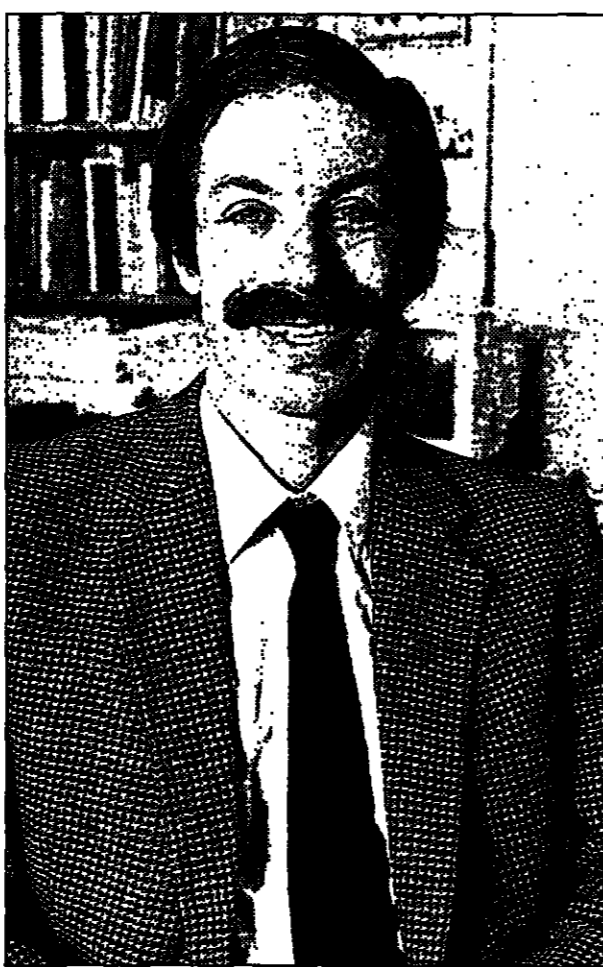
The team of scientists, which includes George Terry and Linda Ho at University College, London, and Tony Hollingsworth at Nottingham, examined mild and moderate smears from 85 women. In almost 90 per cent of the cases a high level of HPV16 indicated potentially severe abnormalities. Dr Cuzick says: "We think that it is very likely that women with only minor abnormalities but high levels of HPV16 may well have a high-grade disease. These women are in need of treatment."

HPV16 is a wart infection that is transmitted sexually and shows no outward symptoms. High levels of HPV16 are very common and do not indicate disease.

Dr Hollingsworth, a senior registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology at Nottingham, says that, ideally, he would like to see all women with any abnormalities given a colposcopy, but feels that it would be too time-consuming and expensive.

He believes that the technique the group used to test for HPV16 — which uses polymerase chain reaction (PCR) — is one of the most accurate and cheap. But at present the PCR machines, which multiply the amounts of viral DNA in the smear so that it can be detected, are not widely available.

Dr Anderson, a reader in gynaecological pathology at Nottingham University, and



Offering hope: Jack Cuzick, a co-author of the study

'Anything that gives reassurance to these women will be beneficial'

one of the co-authors of the report, feels that it would be a waste of money to install the equipment on a large scale now. "We have known for some time that women with mild diagnoses can actually have severe abnormalities. All this paper is suggesting is that those with high levels of HPV16 could be treated a few months earlier," he says.

He feels it would be wrong to alter medical practice on one diagnosis. "We need more corroboration of results on a larger scale. We don't yet know how much effect the virus has on cervical cancer ... A lot more research needs to be done," he says.

Margaret Stanley, a lecturer in pathology at Cambridge University, who is leading a team into developing a vaccine against cervical cancer, says: "This is a useful and neat piece of research for academics but not that new. It has been known for a long time that HPV16 has a link with cervical cancer. The problem is that testing for it is very tricky and can cause false alarms."

The Marie Stopes Well Woman Clinic in London was the first clinic to offer colposcopy, the taking of photographs of the cervix, and provides an intensive check-up system. The clinic always asks women with mild abnormalities to come back and usually proceeds with a colposcopy. Jane Macpherson, a senior press officer, is following the HPV16 research findings. "Even mild abnormalities cause terrible anxiety so anything that gives reassurance to these women will be beneficial," she says.

However, she is more concerned about those who never have a test. "Any woman who is sexually active has a chance of getting cervical cancer. More people are getting tested but it is those who still haven't had a smear test who are at high risk," she says.

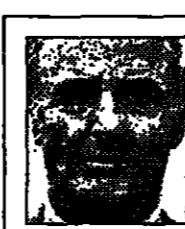
ALICE THOMSON

Peaceful antidote to a poison

THE same time as it was announced that Alexander Solzhenitsyn's family have packed their bags preparatory to a visit to Russia next month to see if the author's home country is now ready to receive him, one of his fellow countrymen, former KGB agent Lieutenant Colonel Boris Ivanov, has described how one of his colleagues tried to murder Mr Solzhenitsyn.

Li Col Ivanov says his colleague used ricin, the poison derived from the castor plant, *Ricinus communis*, which was so effective in the murder of Georgi Markov, a Bulgarian dissident, when delivered in the small intestine to give ricinoleic acid, which not only stimulates the smooth muscle of the intestines, but also the uterine muscle.

With the cold war behind us, swords have been beaten in ploughshares and the poisonous qualities of some of the constituents of the castor plant bean are back in the news with a peacetime use. Scientists led by Professor Philip Thorpe, formerly with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, have conducted trials at the



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

things up, sister". If it worked the huckless woman could be assured that diarrhoea would be added to the other discomforts of delivery; castor oil is hydrolysed in the small intestine to give ricinoleic acid, which not only stimulates the smooth muscle of the intestines, but also the uterine muscle.

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Royal Free Hospital and the Royal Marsden in London and the treatment of B cell lymphomas with ricin delivered to the precise tumour site with the help of monoclonal antibodies. The poison can then act directly on the tumour without serious side effects.

All the patients treated in this initial trial had terminal disease, stage three or four lymphomas which had slipped out of control despite standard therapy. After treatment with ricin, half of those treated had marked tumour regression and went into remission for between one and four months. The results were so encouraging that further trials are taking place.

Fortunately the KGB's knowledge of pharmacology was not as deep as Professor Thorpe's. When they left the unsuspecting Mr Solzhenitsyn they were, apparently, confident that within a few hours the author would be dead. But the wrong dose had been used and Mr Solzhenitsyn suffered from no more than a blistered skin, local swelling and a feeling that he had suffered from a severe allergic reaction.

The weight of evidence

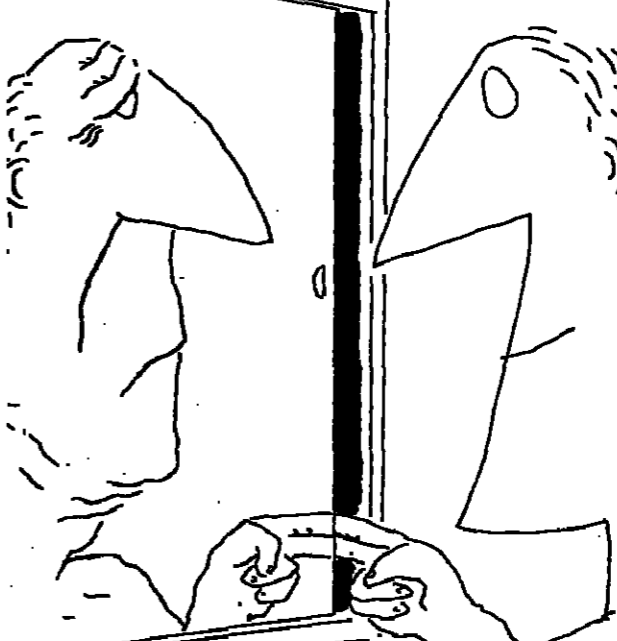
THE impression that Benny Hill and Frankie Howerd both looked unnaturally old for their age was partly explained by the revelation that Frankie Howerd (at 75) was several years older than he had cared to admit. However there are sound medical reasons for the almost invariable inclusion on a patient's notes of a space to record whether a patient looks his or her age.

Research a few years ago suggested that a patient's appearance was the single most important medical observation when assessing long term prognosis: presumably because so many of the risk factors for coronary arterial and other diseases also tend to age a person. Smoking ages the face so the complexion coarsens and develops a greyish tinge, the skin becomes wrinkled and the face

develops very many lines.

Gross obesity — Benny Hill, aged 67, was more than 17st — can make even a young man or woman look middle aged. It is not surprising that Mr Hill was advised to lose at least two stone when he recently left hospital following investigations for chest pains. Even a two stone reduction of his weight would not have brought his weight down to the accepted range, but doctors now advise that patients should be given realistic targets otherwise their advice is totally ignored.

Statistics suggest that a man who is 25 per cent overweight has nearly twice the chance of having a coronary thrombosis and nearly three times the risk of being hypertensive, and, therefore, not unnaturally a much higher expectation of a stroke.



High price for health

SO few people have ever had experience of Gaucher's disease, that it is unlikely that it would ever be the subject of a very animated discussion in the bar or at the dinner table. There are only 15,000 cases in Europe, although Ashkenazi Jews have an incidence of one in 2,500 births.

The recent discovery of a drug, Ceredase, which is the basis of a successful treatment for the hitherto often fatal and invariably painful disease, is a great medical advance but

illustrates why health service costs will continue to rise. Treatment with Ceredase costs up to £15,000 for the first six months, and thereafter up to £35,000 per year, presumably for life, enough to pay for three boys at Eton and still leave change.

All types of the disease are due to a lack of an enzyme glucocerebrosidase, responsible for breaking down a lipid glucocerebroside, a constituent of the red blood cell walls. Failure to break down the red cells effectively results in gross enlargement of the spleen and liver, enlarged to the point when the child is pot bellied. The condition is also associat-

ed with severe anaemia, platelet lack so that there are frequent haemorrhages, painfully deformed bones, pigmented skin and often mental retardation.

The magazine *General Practitioner* reports that 11 patients were given the treatment. Within two years all 11 had normal blood levels of glucocerebrosidase, and within 18 months the spleen of ten out of 11 had halved in size; ten were no longer anaemic and six had normal platelet counts. Thereafter the children were able to take part in the normal rough and tumble of the playground.

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The public will see the car for the first time at the British International Motor Show at National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, in October.

Mr Dossener says: "Customers need to set themselves a target price to spend which is the price of their new car on the road. This should include delivery charges and anything else it takes to get driving."

● Price £21,000; engine 3.5-litre V8 petrol injection with catalyst offering 164bhp at 4,750rpm; permanent four-wheel drive with five-speed manual gearbox plus high and low ratio transfer box and centre differential lock; 0-60mph 12.4 seconds; top speed 101mph; fuel (unleaded only) 15mpg in town, 19mpg at 70mph.

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JEEP Cherokee Lhd edition. 1988.
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ABS. Night grille/bars, tow
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EXECUTIVE CAR OF THE YEAR

SAAB 9000 CS 2.0i



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What Car?

Cars of the Year Awards

1992

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Crème de la Crème
every Monday Wednesday Thursday
071 481 4481

THE TIMES

PERSONAL COLUMN

ESTABLISHED 1785

Property Buyers Guide
every Wednesday and Saturday
071 481 1986

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRATEFUL Thanks to The Samaritan's Room for the help and support given to me during my illness. I am now well and happy to be back in the community. I am now well and happy to be back in the community. I am now well and happy to be back in the community.

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DATLINE with DATEDLINE GOLD, our exclusive service, is the world's largest most successful agency. You can still hire a plane from us for as little as £200 per month with an option to buy later.

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TELEPHONE 071 782 7347 FAX 071 481 9313
(ADVERTISEMENTS ACCEPTED ONLY IN WRITING AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION)

PUBLIC NOTICES

CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT FORMAL INVESTIGATION
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 10(2) of the Civil Aviation (Investigation of Air Accidents) Regulations, 1989, that a formal investigation under the said Regulations is taking place into the circumstances and causes of the accident to Lockheed 1011 Thruster, BV 101, which occurred between Frankfurt Airport, Germany and London Heathrow on 9 March 1992.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In the matter of the Insolvency Rules 1986, in the matter of the Insolvency Rules 1986, in the matter of the Insolvency Rules 1986.

LEGAL NOTICES

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HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS

Donations are urgently needed to enable us to buy more houses and rescue more families in urgent need of support. Help us help the homeless. Please send your donation to: The Homeless Trust, 70-72 West End Street, London WC2E 8RN.

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MATURE Secretary, competent and experienced. Please reply to Box No 8232

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THE AMERICAN AGENCY

We're a U.S. owned & staffed Agency where you're looking for a friendly, professional and experienced American agent or searching for American style property.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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